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THE FRENCH ARMY 1939-45 (2)

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OSPREY MILITARY MEN-AT-ARMS 318

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FREE FRENCH, FIGHTING FRENCH & THE ARMY OF LIBERATION

TEXT BY
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COLOUR PLATES BY
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OSPREY MILITARY

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to Jean-Pierre Vauvillier, the author's father, aged 20 in 1944, who, reluctant to enter the Compulsory Work Service as ordered by the Germans, disappeared from home, joined the Maquis, took part in several actions in the Atlantic Pockets in 1944-45 and ended the war as a sergeant.

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Publisher's Note

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THE FRENCH ARMY 1939-45

(2) FREE FRENCH, FIGHTING FRENCH AND THE ARMY OF LIBERATION

DE GAULLE AND THE FREE FRENCH 1940-43

London, 14 July 1940. Dressed in his new général de brigade's uniform, Charles de Gaulle inspects a detachment of the 14e DBLE (see Plate A1). Behind him (right to left) are Admiral Muselier, Commandant de Conchard (wearing the scarlet collar patches of the Artillery), and de Gaulle's ADC, Lieutenant de Courcel (wearing the dark blue collar patches and sky blue *képi* of the Light Cavalry). Their uniforms are wholly French.

When Charles de Gaulle launched his celebrated appeal via the BBC on 18 June 1940, he was quite unknown to most French people. This brilliant theorist of armoured warfare – whose 1935 book *Vers l'armée de métier* was said to have been read by Guderian – had initially been given the command of the 4e Division Cuirassée, then forming. On 6 June, by now a temporary général de brigade, he became Under-Secretary of State for War in the government of Paul Reynaud, who placed great faith in him. During those dramatic days of June, the government he joined was split between those who advocated resistance to the last, with Algiers as a temporary capital (the line supported by Reynaud and de Gaulle), and the military commanders Pétain and Weygand, who favoured an armistice, with the government remaining in France. By 16 June, with Reynaud in the minority and driven from

power, the political and legal battle was lost. It was then that de Gaulle, with the decisive support of Churchill, came to the conclusion that, whatever happened, France could not stand to one side in the struggle. And so, Free France was born.

Free French units and campaigns

By the end of the month de Gaulle could, in theory, count on a considerable number of troops who by then were in England – soldiers evacuated from Dunkirk or repatriated from Norway, and sailors from the many French vessels then in British harbours. But in fact, out of the many thousands of troops available, he managed to recruit no more than 1,400 men, who went to form the *Légion de Gaulle*, or *1re Brigade de Légion Française* (BLF). By 15 August 1940, even after recruiting among escapees from France, or from Frenchmen living in Great Britain, and incorporating Air Force and Navy detachments as ground troops, the 1re BLF had only achieved a strength of some 2,721 men of all ranks – barely a full regiment. But by then, the flow of further volunteers from France and North Africa (largely pilots and sailors), had been almost completely cut off following the British bombardment of Mers-el-Kebir (3 July

1 Main Free French units 1940-41

(Only the main units fighting on land have been noted)

French designation	*Initial strength, observations, etc.*
Troops raised in Great Britain June-July 1940	
14e DBLE (13e again from Nov. 1940) *(Also known as 1er BLE – Bataillon de Légion Étrangère)*	c.900 Legionnaires from Norway
1re CCFL (Cie de Chars de la France Libre)	12 Hotchkiss H 39 tanks from Norway
BVF (Bataillon de Volontaires Français) *(Became BCC – Bataillon de Chasseurs de Camberley. Disbanded on 8 Dec. 1940. Became Cadets de la France Libre, a cadre for FF officers and NCOs)*	c.220 chasseurs and Breton volunteers
1er BFM (Bataillon de Fusiliers Marins) *(Infantry, then AA unit from early 1941. A 2e BFM was created during that year. In Sept. 43, 1er BFM became 1er RFM, armoured recce Rgt of 1re DMI)*	c.400 sailors organised as a land unit
1re CIA (Compagnie d'Infanterie de l'Air)	c.20 paras (future SAS French Squadron) & small detachments of artillery, engineers, signals and services
Troops from Levant June-July 1940 *(initially known as Détachement Français en Egypte, then GVFE– Groupement des Volontaires Français d'Egypte)*	
1er BIM (Bataillon d'Inf. de Marine) *(the 1er BIM fought with the British 7th Arm. Div. from Sept. 1940 to May 1941)*	c.470, from 24e RIC
ESM (Escadron de Spahis Marocains)	42 from 1er RSM *(future RMSM)*
Troops from Black Africa	
BM 1 (1er Bataillon de Marche)	c.800 Senegalese (Brazzaville, 29 Aug. 1940)
BM 2 (2e Bataillon de Marche)	c.750 Senegalese (Bangui, Nov. 1940)
BM 3 (3e Bataillon de Marche)	c.800 Senegalese (Chad, Dec. 1940)
BM 4 (4e Bataillon de Marche) *(followed in 1941 by further BMs of similar strength)*	c.800 Senegalese (Cameroun, Dec. 1940)
RTST (Rgt de Tir. Sénégalais du Tchad)	469 French, 5,664 locals: Senegalese plus c.400 Tuareg camel troopers from the GN (Groupes Nomades) of Ennedi, Borku and Tibesti *(these Chadian troops formed Leclerc's raiding columns).*
Troops from Tahiti and New Caledonia	
BP 1 (1er Bataillon du Pacifique) *(BP 1 became BIMP after amalgamation with 1er BIM in summer 1942)*	c.600 European and locals (Noumea, May 1941)

RIGHT **Sergeant Chareton of the Bataillon de chasseurs d'Angleterre, photographed at Old Dean Camp at the end of 1940. Wearing an alpine beret, British battledress with 'France' shoulder titles, and the Bergen rucksack of the French Expeditionary Force to Norway, he is carrying an Enfield P14 rifle. On his upper left sleeve only (invisible here), he is wearing a chasseurs alpins collar patch, possibly with a unit number (6, 12 or 14 – in memory of the units which fought at Narvik).**

The officer of the 13e DBLE seen here (top) is wearing the full French uniform, with a khaki beret, dark blue collar patches instead of khaki (a non-regulation feature, but often seen) with two green *soutaches*, and in bullion wire, the Legion's grenade with the figure 13 inside the bomb. Above, this *tirailleur sénégalais* of one of the BMs wears khaki collar patches with a yellow anchor on his British battledress blouse.

1940), when 1,300 French sailors were killed. Moreover, no ground forces came over to the Free French from North Africa, principally because there was no land frontier with a British possession.

In the Near East, on the other hand, a handful of units crossed into Palestine the day after the Armistice to continue the fight (see Table 1, p.4). In the remainder of France's African possessions, the Free French cause attracted several units of local troops, brought over, willingly or not, by their French officers. In July-August 1940, 1,800 tirailleurs sénégalais and their officers crossed the border into the Gold Coast, but after some mutinied and others were incorporated into the British Army, only 150 volunteers were left by September.

The biggest coup, however, came at the end of August, when most of French Equatorial Africa (i.e. Chad, the Cameroons, the French Congo and, from 2 September, Oubangui-Chari [now the Central African Republic]) and its garrison of 16,500 men came over. After providing for local defence forces, training centres and depots,

2 Free French Brigades and Divisions 1940-1943

Formation	*General (or CO)*	*Infantry (Bn level) or main body*	*Recce*	*Tanks*	*Artillery*	*Campaigns and other comments*
***Main body of Free French troops** *(included in the Order of Battle of the British and Commonwealth forces)*						
– in September 1940						
1re Brigade de Légion Française (1re BLF)	de Gaulle	14e DBLE, 1er BFM	—	1re CCFL	1 Section	Shipped on 15 Sept. 1940 from UK to Dakar, then diverted to Cameroun after failure of Operation Menace
– which became **(from 21 October 1940)**						
Brigade Française d'Orient (BFO)	*(Col.)* Monclar	1er BLE, 1er BFM, BM 2, BM 3	(1er ESM)*	1re CCFL	1 Section	At full strength in late Dec. 1940, for the Eritrean campaign* The spahis fought separately, with the 5th Indian Div.
– which became **(from 11 April 1941)**						
Ire Division d'Infanterie des FFL	Legentilhomme	1re Bde : 1er BLE, BM 1, BM 2	1er ESM	1re CCFL	2 Batts	Syrian campaign, June-July 1941 (completed by Collet's Circassians from late June)
		2e Bde : 1er BIM, BM 3, BM 4	Sudanese Sqdn		1er BFM(AA)	
(the 1re DIFFL was disbanded in Syria on 20 Aug. 41, to form 2 new DLIs (Divisions Légères d'Infanterie) *which did not see service as such, but were modified in Dec. 1941 as follows:)*						
– which became **(from 23 December 1941)**						
Corps Français du Western Desert	de Larminat					Known as 'Groupe français Libre' from 4 March 1942
1re Brigade Française Libre *(independent)*	Koenig	2e, 3e BLE, 1er BIM, BM 2, BP 1	—*	—*	1er RA, 1er BFM(AA)	Libyan campaign 1942 **(Bir Hakeim)**
2e Brigade Française Libre *(independent)*	Cazaud	1er BLE, BM 3 *(then 5)*, 4, 11			1 Battery	Libyan campaign 1942
(a 3e Brigade Française Libre was also created in the Levant, May 42, with BM 6, 7, 9. It did not see action, as its role was to maintain the French presence there)						
* Colonne volante *(Free French Flying column)*		GR 1, GR 2 *(became*	1re CCFL 1er RMSM *in Sept. 42)*	9 Conus portée		Recce Groups (GR) used independently or together
– which became **(from 1 February 1943)**						
1re Division Française Libre (1re DFL)	Koenig	1re Bde : 13e [1er,2e] DBLE, BIMP	(1er RMSM, 1re CCFL)*		1er RA, 2e RAC	Tunisian campaign from 6 April 43
(1re DFL initial strength with 2 Bdes: 10,234)		2e Bde : BM 4, BM 5, BM 11			1er BFM(AA)	Then, the 1re DFL was sent to Syria (June 43)
		4e Bde* : BM 21, BM 22, BM 24				*From French Somaliland. Did not see action in Tunisia

* **'Colonne Leclerc'** *(used as a separate, solely French force, until it reached the British VIIIth Army in Tripoli, 23 Jan. 1943)*, then **'Force L'** *from* **12 February 1943**. The Leclerc Column was initially c.460 men strong (raid on **Kufra**, Jan.-March 1941), then c.900 men (first Fezzan campaign, Feb.-March 1942). For the conquest of the Fezzan (Dec. 42-Jan. 1943), it started with 2,758 men. After his victory in the Fezzan, Leclerc drove northwards to Libya and Tripoli. During the Tunisian campaign, the FF Flying Column was incorporated into Force L (12 March). Leclerc's forces, officially referred to as 2e DFL from 12 May, were withdrawn in June 1943 from Tunisia to Tripolitania.

An inspection of the 1re Compagnie de Chars de la France Libre, 6 January 1943, at Tmimi, near Tobruk. All the men are wearing the full British uniform, including the RTR beret, but with a French badge (the helmet and crossed gun barrels of the Tanks). The chasseur wearing glasses on the left is also wearing the metal badge of the 1re CCFFL. The NCO on the left is wearing a 'France' shoulder title.

Lt. Col. Paul Maubert, second-in-command of the 1er RA (1re DFL) in 1944-45, after the division had been re-equipped by the Americans. The characteristic French elements of his uniform are the *bonnet de police* (dark blue side cap with red piping, and a gilt anchor to commemorate the regiment's origins as Colonial troops), the rank braid worn on the shoulder straps, and, of course, the division's cloth badge.

there were enough men remaining to form four *bataillons de marche* by the end of the year.

Leaving England in September 1940, most of the 1re BLF (2,045 men of all ranks) took part in Operation Menace, whose purpose was to win over Dakar, and thus the rest of French West Africa. But the Vichy forces put up a determined resistance, damaging the British fleet, and repulsing an attempted landing by the Free French. The 1re BLF was therefore diverted first to Freetown, then Douala, and finally to the Cameroons.

The first Free French land action, an expedition against Vichy-held Gabon, took place in November 1940, and their remaining operations are summarised in Table 2 (see also MAA 238, pp.20-22). Although Free French ground forces had reached a strength of 50,000 (some two-thirds of whom formed the garrisons of French possessions) at their zenith in July 1943, this still amounted to scarcely two per cent of the Army of May-June 1940. FFL (*Forces Françaises Libres*) combat formations accounted for barely 16,000 men at the end of the Tunisian campaign, even after a recruitment drive among the Army of Africa, and after incorporating volunteers who had escaped from France via Spain. Around 18 per cent were Frenchmen of European stock (less than 3,000), while 66 per cent were Africans, and 16 per cent Foreign Legionnaires.

FREE FRENCH GROUND FORCES UNIFORMS AND INSIGNIA

In England, during the early summer of 1940, nothing distinguished those soldiers who had chosen the Free French cause from those *who* had opted for repatriation, since all wore their original uniforms, those of the French Army of May-June 1940 (see Plate A1).

From August 1940, however, the Free French began to receive British uniforms with a cloth shoulder title 'France' embroidered in white on

khaki. This was not to the taste of General de Gaulle, who did not want to see French forces becoming a kind of legion within the British Army. Nevertheless, the 'France' title remained characteristic of those French units which fought alongside British units, particularly those in the SAS and the commandos, discussed below (see also Plates C1, E2, E3).

The insignia worn by all Free French ground forces (and always reserved exclusively for them) was a small metal badge pinned on the chest. Enamelled in blue and red, it depicted a sword crowned with laurels and surrounded by the wings of Victory. Produced in London from early 1941, these badges did not, curiously, feature the cross of Lorraine. The cross, in red edged with white on a blue background, made its first appearance in Africa on a cloth badge towards the end of 1940, and was subsequently found in many different versions in 1941-42. It did not become the formation sign of the 1re DFL until the end of 1943, when it was placed on a blue diamond-shaped background with a red edge.

In Britain, Free French forces, and particularly the officers, tried as far as possible to retain their French service dress. Officer cadets even adopted the dark blue uniform of the chasseurs alpins as a full dress uniform, worn with an Alpine beret (see also Plate A3). On the other hand, campaign uniform, which needed replacing most often, was British in origin. It was worn, however, with French rank badges, placed, contrary to French traditions, on the shoulder straps. This assertion of national identity had its origins in an agreement between de Gaulle and Churchill on 7 August 1940: 'French forces, consisting of volunteers ... will keep, as much as possible, the character of a French unit in personnel matters, particularly in the areas of discipline, language, promotion, and duties ... In the area of equipment, [Free] French forces will take priority in the ownership and use of any

The sailors of the 1er BFM in September 1942, when they were equipped with Bofors AA guns. Their only distinctive badge is the red *fourragère*, quite noticeable here. (Coll. H. Fercocq)

Apart from the headgear, a certain *je ne sais quoi* immediately identifies these men as Free French equipped by the British. Capt. Hugo, Capt. Magny and Lt. Noguès, of the 2e BFL, are pictured near Bir Hakeim in December 1942. Their uniforms – a civilian trench coat, regulation greatcoat and leather jerkin – are very varied. The *képi* is black (dark blue according to regulation) with gilt distinctions, and the *bonnet de police* is blue/black with scarlet piping. All three bear the gilt anchor of Colonial troops. (Private collection)

equipment belonging to, or used by, French forces of whatever origin.' This last clause was particularly important, since it allowed de Gaulle the free use of anything which might be found in any ex-Vichy territory acquired by the Free French: in the summer of 1941, the Near East contained a huge reservoir, if not of men, then at least of matériel of all kinds.

Uniforms worn in the field

For Operation Menace in August 1940, the Free French of the 1re BLF received a complete set of items of British tropical dress to go with their battledress. Part of this new uniform was a large lozenge-shaped enamelled tricolour shield for the front of the tropical helmet; this highly visible badge was very quickly abandoned, and it should not be confused with a badge worn on the side of the tropical helmet by the men of the 1st and 2nd Companies of the 1re BIM (see MAA 238, Plate F1). A similar, if smaller, tricolour lozenge was painted on the sides of the British Mk.II steel helmet, issued in the Western Desert during 1942.

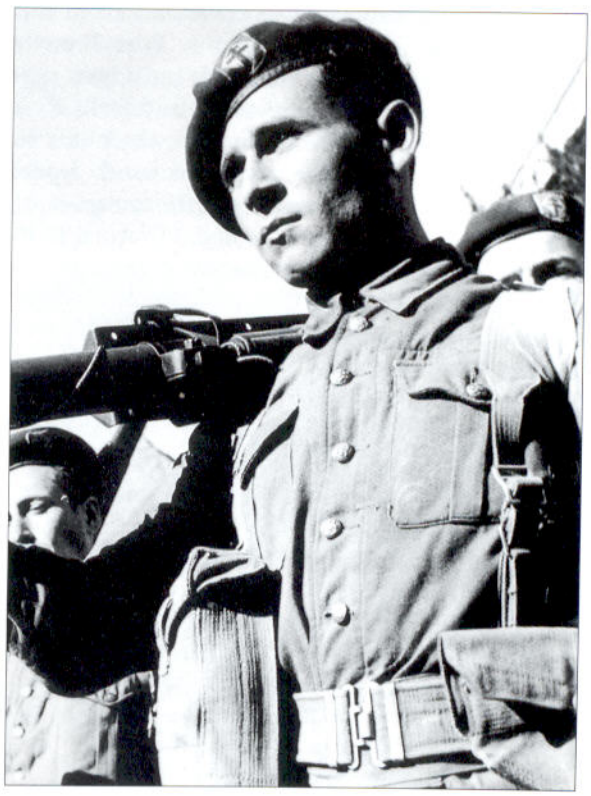
For some time local troops from French Equatorial Africa retained their tirailleur uniforms, worn without any special insignia, except in the case of BM1 which, for the Gabon Expedition of November 1940, carried a small cloth triangle with the cross of Lorraine on the left chest. The badge continued to be worn, but on the upper left sleeve, during operations in Syria (June-July 1941). The mounted spahis of the 1er ESM wore their 1939-40 uniform in their first actions alongside the British.

As far as possible, French 1939-40 pattern collar patches were worn on the battledress collars. Most units, some as early as the end of 1940, also retained the French practice of wearing a metal unit badge, either plain or enamelled, in addition to the general Free French badge described above.

In the absence of the steel helmet, Free French troops were most easily distinguished from their British allies by their undress headgear. The *képi*, worn by officers and senior NCOs, was that of the wearer's original arm-of-service, without any additional badge. For the men, a new type of side cap (*bonnet de police*) in coloured cloth appeared in late 1940: it was dark blue with red piping and a gilt anchor for the men of the 1er BIM, and garance for the spahis of 1er ESM (see Plate B3). The 13e DBLE retained their 1935-pattern fortress troops' beret, distributed to them before the Norway campaign (some men adding a Legion grenade to the front). After the Syrian campaign, however, the legionnaires were able to recover a large quantity of *képi*s with white covers, formerly belonging to the 6e REI, and new ones were also manufactured in the Near East. Both types of headgear were worn in the Western Desert during 1942, with the képi seen more frequently than the khaki beret.

The tank crews of the 1re Compagnie de chars (the core of the future 501e RCC) retained their small dark blue beret with the traditional French tanks badge (though the French beret was quickly replaced by the black British pattern). Finally, the sailors of the 1er BFM retained their *bachi* – the sailor's cap with the red pompon characteristic of the French Navy. Initially bearing a tally with the name of their ship or shore establishment, this was changed in 1941 to *Fusiliers Marins* (while a tally with 'FNFL' - *Forces Navales Françaises Libres* – was worn by ships' companies, and by commandos before the introduction of the green beret). From the summer of 1941, the 1er BFM were granted the honour of a red *fourragère* (the colour of the *Légion d'Honneur*), awarded during the

These two pictures show the development of the headgear and badges of the fusiliers-marins commandos. In 1941-42, they wore the regulation headdress of the French Navy (caps for officers and petty officers, *bachis* for ratings) with the FNFL cloth badge on their sleeve, below the 'France' and 'Commando' titles. Then, in late 1942-early 1943, all personnel received the green beret of British commandos with the FNFL badge (replaced on the arm by the Combined Operations badge). Finally, in April 1944, the famous metal beret badge was introduced (see Plate E3).



First World War to the Dixmude *Brigade des fusiliers marins*. The sailors of the BFM also wore the general insignia of the FNFL, an elongated enamelled metal diamond, bearing a cross of Lorraine in red with a white edge on a blue background (see Plate A3).

Free French paratroops and commandos

Because these units never formed part of any Free French higher formation re-equipped by the US, they used British uniforms and equipment until the final days of the war, and so are treated separately here.

The first paratroop unit was the *1re Compagnie d'infanterie de l'air* (1re CIA), which thus retained the 'infanterie de l'air' name of the first French airborne units formed in 1937. Raised from the beginning for special operations, Free French paratroops were finally formed into two regiments of *chasseurs parachutistes* (2e and 3e RCP) – but only after a long evolution (see the notes to Plates C1 and E2). After the Normandy operations, and a reorganisation in the autumn of 1944, they parachuted into Holland in April 1945 to attack the retreating Germans.

As well as wearing British paratroop wings on the sleeve (sometimes replaced by either the SAS pattern or the pre-war French pattern), Free French paratroops adopted their own wings in the spring of 1942, worn above either chest pocket. Their headgear was a dark blue *bonnet de police* (1940-41), then from 1941-44 a black beret, first with the so-called 'Polish badge' (a white parachute on a sky blue pentagon) and from 1943, with the British Parachute Regiment cap badge minus the crown and lion. This was replaced in its turn by a paratroops' red beret with an SAS badge (from November 1944). The French paras, however, had no firm regulations on the matter of badges, so a wide mixture could always be seen.

LEFT **Florenville, Belgium, 26 December 1944. This French SAS jeep has a cross of Lorraine painted on its side and, on the front bumper, 'Oradour-sur-Glane', the town where 600 inhabitants were massacred by the SS *Das Reich* Division on 10 June 1944. The men are wearing Denison smocks and red berets with the 'Who Dares Wins' badge. Note also the powerful armament of the jeep, its armour plate and modified radiator grille.**

Raised in the spring of 1941, the FNFL commandos formed two troops and a machine gun section – 177 men in all – in Number 4 Commando on D-Day, (see the notes to Plate E3). They wore the green beret from its introduction at the end of 1942, but with the FNFL cloth patch (replaced in April 1944 by their own metal badge). Their battledress blouses bore the same badges as those of British commandos, with the additions of the 'France' shoulder title, and, of course, French badges of rank on the shoulder straps.

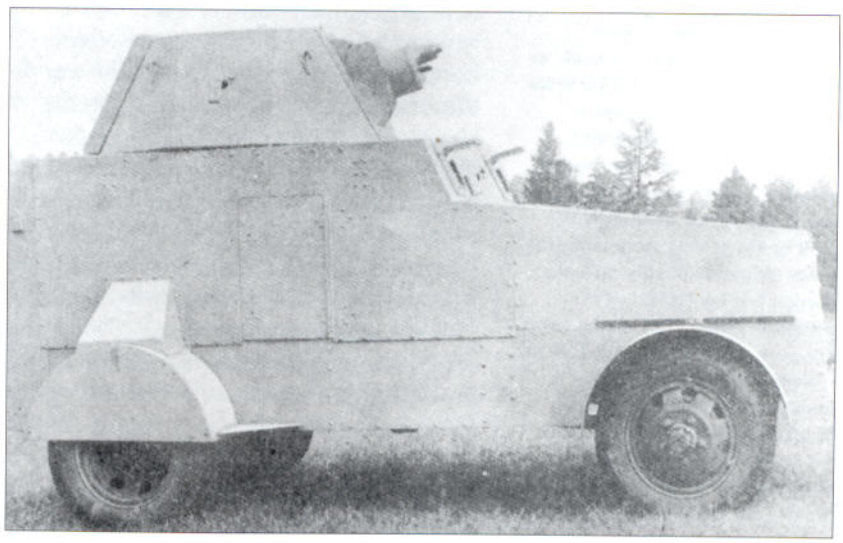
SECRET RESISTANCE WITHIN THE VICHY ARMY

Generally speaking, the Armistice of June 1940 was regarded by the French Army as no more than a suspension of hostilities, a view developed from the autumn of 1940 by General Maxime Weygand. If, following their oath of allegiance, French soldiers were loyal to the legal government of France set up at Vichy, and if they did make a personality cult of Marshal Pétain, they did not agree with the politics of collaboration. For them, Germany remained the one true enemy.

The eventual re-opening of hostilities was the subject of General Staff studies from 1941, in particular, the possibility of an Allied landing in the Free Zone, whether on the Atlantic or Mediterranean coasts. In the autumn of 1942, the Mediterranean option was that favoured by General Henri Giraud. A prisoner in May 1940, who had spectacularly escaped from the fortress of Königstein on 17 April 1942, his personal plan – abandoned only a few days before Operation Torch – was to establish two redoubts, at Toulon and Port-Vendres, which would serve as bridgeheads for the Americans.

Wherever the landing might be, the Army would put into effect its secret mobilisation plan, whereby each regiment would raise two more, so tripling the size of the Army (see Table 8, Vol. 1). Under the command of Col. Mollard, head of the Army's CDM (*camouflage du matériel*) section, secret dumps of arms and matériel of all kinds were

LEFT **Aspirant Paul Léger, 3e RCP, photographed in Paris in December 1944 wearing an astonishingly complete set of badges. On his beret is the SAS badge and a modified Parachute Regiment badge. On his Denison smock, the dark blue shoulder straps bear his single rank stripe and an RAF albatross in gilt. He wears FFL para wings on his chest; and, on his sleeve, a 'France' shoulder title and a French *Infanterie de l'Air* badge on a khaki backing.**



RIGHT **A CDM armoured car built secretly in the Unoccupied Zone in late 1942 on an American GMC ACK353 truck chassis. The manufacturing programme called for 225 such vehicles, armed with a machine gun and an anti-tank gun, to be built for the Army of the Armistice, but this was the only one completed before the invasion of the Zone on 11 November 1942.**

A young member of the Chantiers de Jeunesse, around 1942. He is wearing a forest green uniform (beret, 'golf' trousers, and puttees), a khaki or mid-grey shirt, thick natural wool socks, 1917-pattern boots or mountain boots, and a brown leather windcheater. The 'badge of office' ('rank' was not used) was a red ribbon worn over the right chest pocket (here with two white stripes indicating a Team Leader, the equivalent of a corporal). Below this can be seen the general insignia of the CJF (a French flag and a sun within a wreath of wheat stalks). The beret was decorated with either the badge of the individual chantier, or a smaller version of the general badge.

created to supplement the regular army and supply its reserves. Further, clandestine ammunition factories were set up in the Free Zone, in defiance of the terms of the armistice.

In mainland France, these measures unfortunately had little effect, except where dumps remained undiscovered by the Germans, and were used to arm the FFI in 1944; in North Africa, on the other hand, they allowed General Juin's forces to be placed quickly on a war footing in November 1942.

A training ground: the Chantiers de la jeunesse

In order to occupy the Classes of 1939/2 and 1940/1, who were called up in the spring of 1940, and to accommodate the large number of officers and NCOs whose services could not be used in the small post-Armistice Army, the Vichy Government formed the *Chantiers de la Jeunesse Française* (CJF), under General de la Porte du Theil. The new organisation resembled the military in a number of ways (it was, for example, presented with a flag and included a band), but it did not provide military training, since that was forbidden by the Armistice. Nevertheless, it was a form of compulsory national service, and some 400,000 young men served their eight months in its ranks between 1940 and 1944. Indeed, both in North Africa and in the Unoccupied Zone, the CJF was to provide a training ground for the future Army of Liberation (see Plates F1 and H2). The CJF was disbanded in France by the Germans in mid-June 1944 because of the potential threat it posed, but this did not prevent thousands of its members from joining the maquis, either as individuals or in groups.

A REMATCH FOR THE ARMY OF AFRICA

When the Allies landed in North Africa on 8 November 1942, the politico-military situation was very complex. Before Operation Torch, the Americans had entered into secret negotiations with General Giraud, unaware that he exercised no authority over the Army either in North Africa or in France. The North African command was firmly held by General Alphonse Juin, who was loyal to the Vichy Government. Moreover, Admiral Francois Darlan, Pétain's designated successor, happened to be in Algiers for personal reasons, at the bedside of his dying son. Finally, in London de Gaulle – whom the Americans distrusted greatly – had not been informed about Torch. In Algiers, a group of conspirators loyal to Giraud allowed the city to fall to the Allies with scarcely a shot fired in anger, but this was not the case in Oran (western Algeria), or in Morocco, where there were serious clashes between French and Allied troops (1,368 French and 453 Allied killed). An armistice was eventually signed on 11 November, and four days later, the French African Army rejoined the war on the Allied side.

As incredible as it may seem, this turnaround was claimed 'in the Marshal's [i.e. Pétain's] name' by Admiral Darlan, who was recognised by the Americans as the senior political figure on the French side. This was not acceptable to the Free French, and on 24 December, Darlan was

assassinated. This left Giraud – named as civil and military commander-in-chief by the Americans – and de Gaulle, who was still in London. Under pressure from the Allies, the two generals were forced to co-operate. At the beginning of 1943, the leader of Free France established his HQ in Algiers, and created, with Giraud, the French Committee of National Liberation (CFLN). But after only five months as joint leader of the CFLN, Giraud relinquished first all political power, then a few weeks later, his command of French forces. From then on, de Gaulle exercised undivided political power. It was against this troubled background that the French Army had to reorganise, with the eventual aim of liberating the homeland.

On a tour of inspection on the Italian Front in March 1944, General Giraud (wearing a *képi* decorated with oak leaves, and an American mackinaw), C-in-C of the French Army, chats to General Juin, commander of the CEF, who wears a beret, distinctively, if inelegantly, wedged down on his head. Both generals had the same rank, that of *général d'armée*, indicated by five stars.

Mobilising and fielding the Army of Africa

On 6 September 1940, General Weygand, after eleven weeks as Minister of National Defence, had been appointed the Vichy Government's representative in North Africa: a post which, until the Germans had him recalled in November 1941, gave him complete civil and military power in French North and West Africa.[1] This uncompromising patriot quite openly ensured the open resupply of Africa by the Americans (the Weygand-Murphy Plan of 26 February 1941), and secretly organised preparations for the re-opening of hostilities. Vital to this end were the arms which had been hidden since the summer of 1940, before his arrival: 55,000 rifles, 2,500 light machine guns, 1,500 heavy machine guns, 207 81mm mortars, 75 anti-tank guns, 82 75mm field guns, 24 tracked carriers, 25 armoured cars, six Hotchkiss tanks, as well as lorries, signals equipment, etc. As in mainland France, some weapons manufacture also began in secret, notably the mounting of 75mm naval guns on lorries as portée anti-tank guns.

To the 120,000 men permitted by the Axis for the so-called 'Army of Transition' in North Africa, Weygand secretly added another 60,000 trained men who could be used in the regular army (disguising 10,000 as 'provisional conscripts', 13,500 as auxiliary police in Morocco (rather than the authorised establishment of 600), and 20,000 as 'unarmed workers'). Secret mobilisation plans, put into action from mid-November 1942, succeeded in calling up 259,000 Frenchmen living in Africa (of whom 176,500 actually were employed, including 8,000 from the active CJF and 22,000 CJF reservists), as well as 233,000 North Africans. Also called into service were 10,000 volunteer Frenchwomen (who served in the Staff, the Signals and with Medical units), around 10,000 escapees from occupied France, and 77,000 men mobilised in French West Africa. Including former Vichy forces, a total of 700,000 men and women were raised in Africa for the forthcoming struggle. And, even if their equipment was inadequate, their morale was high.

In November 1942, the problem facing French military command in Africa was three-fold. Simultaneously, existing formations had to be sent

1 This post, extremely dangerous to the policy of the Axis, was abolished in November 1941. Weygand's successor, General Juin, exercised only military power, and that only in North Africa.

3 French Army Order of Battle Tunisian Campaign, November 1942-May 1943

As many changes occurred during the campaign, and as many units fought split among several divisions, this table does not reflect a fixed situation. Free French Forces (1re DFL and Leclerc force) also fought in Tunisia. See Table 2

Formation DAF	C/O Juin	Infantry	Cavalry	Artillery	Comments
					Détachement d'armée Français, created 19 Nov. 1942
CSTT	Barré	4e RMZT, 4e RTT, III/43e RIC (1 bn)	4e RCA, 4e RST	62e RAA	Tunisian Command (partly interned in Bizerta, 19 Nov. 1942)
19e CA	Koeltz			63e RAA (1 By)	Formed 16 Nov., known as CAF (French Army Corps) from Feb. 1943
DMC	Welvert († 10-4)	3e RZ, 1er, 2e, 3e, 7e, 9e RTA	3e, 5e RCA	62e, 64e, 65e, 66e, 67e RAA	Joined 19e CA on 16 Nov. Disbanded 30 Apr.1943
BLM	*then* Schwartz	4e RTT, 7e RTM, 15e RTS, 2e GTM du Vigier then St-Didier	3e RSA, 4e RST *Tanks and motor sqns : 2e, 5e, 9e RCA*	RACM, RACL (elts.) 68e RAA (elts.)	Joined 19e CA on 18 Nov. Disbanded 28 Feb. 1943
Gpt Aurès	de Goutel	—	3e, 6e RSA		Joined 19e CA on 24 Nov., incorporated into FSEA on 18 Feb. 1943
DMA	Deligne *then* Conne	3e RZ, 1er, 9e RTA, 2e GTM	5e RCA, 1er RSA	65e RAA	Joined 19e CA on 25 Nov. 1942
1re DMM	Mathenet	29e RTA, 7eRTM, II/1er, 3e REI, 1er GTM	1er REC	1er RMAM	Formed Dec. 1942, joined CSTT, then 19e CA on 29 Jan. 1943
DMO	Boissau	2e, 6e RTA, 15e RTS, 1er REI	—	62e, 66e, 68e RAA	Late formation, joined CAF on 29 April 1943
FES	Delay	Méharist Coys, 1er REI *(Saharan Coy)*, etc.	—	Foreign Legion Batts	Formed 15 Nov. 1942, incorporated in FSEA on 18 Feb. 1943
FSEA	Boissau	As FES + II/16er RTT, 3e REI, I/13e RTS	3e, 9e, 12e RCA (elts.) 1e, 3e, 6e RSA (elts.)	Foreign Legion Batts	Formed 18 Feb. 1943 with FES and Gpt des Aurès, then disbanded 12 April 1943
GBF	Le Coulteux	*Tanks:* 5e, 9e, 12e RCA (1 sqn each), 1 US light tank Coy			Formed 13 April 1943

Key to new abbreviations (all other designations have been explained in Volume One)

CSTT: Commandement Supérieur des Troupes de Tunisie / Tunisian Troops Command
DMC, DMA, DMO: Division de Marche de Constantine, d'Alger, d'Oran / Provisional division of Constantine, Algiers and Oran.
BLM: Brigade Légère Mécanique / Light mechanized brigade (comprising 2 tank squadrons plus armoured cars, motorcycle combinations and motor squadrons)
DMM: Division Marocaine de Montagne / Moroccan mountain division
GBF: Groupement Blindé Français / French armoured group (mixture of Somua and Valentine tanks)
GTM: Groupe de Tabors Marocains / Moroccan tabor group (roughly equivalent to an infantry regiment)
RMAM: Régiment de Marche d'Artillerie du Maroc / Provisional artillery regiment of Morocco
FES : Front Est Saharien / East Saharan front
FSEA: Front du Sud Est Algérien / South East Algerian front

without delay to oppose Axis forces in Tunisia; a new army, completely re-equipped by the Americans, had to be put into the field as soon as possible; and garrisons elsewhere in Africa had to be maintained (at the end of 1943, which alone required 230,000 men). On the Tunisian front, the French Army committed around 60,000 men to combat (see Table 3 above). This did not include the Free French considered above or the *Corps Franc d'Afrique* (CFA), a unit of around 3,000 volunteers of diverse ethnic origins, including Spaniards and Yugoslavs, unwilling to serve in what they referred to as the 'Darlan Army'. Uniformed, equipped and armed by the British, two battalions were fielded by the CFA on the northern Tunisian coast in January 1943 (increased to three from March of that year).

For their part, General Juin's troops, made up of a number of provisional divisions from Algeria and Morocco, became the 19th Corps (the traditional number for the Military Region of Algeria), and took their place in the line in the Tunisian hills, initially held by the 13,000 men of General Barré's CSTT (Tunisia Command), to whom fell the honour of being the first to engage the enemy. The 19th Corps, soon renamed the French Corps,

These four goumier officers, all dressed very differently, are pictured on 9 May 1943, just after victory in Tunisia. On the left, Capt. Bond wears a spahi's *gandourah* bleached almost white, a small black beret (worn in some goums 1941-43), and *tariouines* (local sandals). Next to him, Commandant Santaille wears a local woollen cap and the classic *djellebah*, with his rank badge on his chest (as was usual for officers). Capt. Flye Sainte-Marie wears the uniform of a Saharan officer, all in light khaki, except for the *képi*, which is the all-sky blue of the Saharan Companies. As for the officer in the *bonnet de police*, he wears a bush jacket *(saharienne)* in a dark colour, probably acquired from an Italian officer. (USNA)

held the centre of the Allied line, with the 1st (British) Army on their northern flank, and the 2nd US Corps on the southern. The extreme southern flank, faciképisert, was held by several thousand Saharan troops under General Delay (succeeded by General Boissau), equipped with traditional camels or trucks, and reinforced by light armoured or horsed cavalry units.

During this hard six-month campaign, a '1940 style' French army, with obsolete materiél, fought bravely and selflessly to give the Allies the time necessary for the victorious offensive on Tunis. But they paid a heavy price for their restoration of French honour: 16,000 men were reported killed, wounded or missing between November 1942 and May 1943, not including the losses suffered by the Free French.

LEFT **In a defensive position in the Tunisian hills, this tirailleur sergeant waits by his Hotchkiss machine gun, dreaming of revenge. He would not have long to wait. His uniform has not altered since 1940. The helmet cover is locally made.**

New organisation and uniforms 1941-43

In November 1942, there were 27 infantry regiments in North Africa (see Table 8, Vol. 1 for the situation in 1941; some changes and disbandments occurred subsequently), of which two-thirds were eventually engaged in Tunisia. Each regiment contained an HQ company (signals, machine guns, 37mm cannon, and sometimes 25mm anti-tank guns as well), plus two or three battalions of four mixed companies each (see Volume 1) – a total of 76 battalions altogether. In the three regiments of the Legion, four of the companies were lorried rather than mixed, and two were mounted.

The *goumiers,* first raised in Morocco in 1908 as permanent units of irregular troops, developed steadily. In 1939-40, 121 *goums,* one

company strong, were raised. Some were disbanded in the summer of 1940, but others were disguised or renamed *'méhallas chérifiennes'* (implying that they were paramilitary forces of the Sultan of Morocco) by their commander, Col. Guillaume. In 1941 Guillaume organised the goums into *tabors* of four goums each, roughly equivalent to a large battalion, and then into *Groupes de tabors marocains* (GTM) of three tabors each.

The regimental structure of the African cavalry was rather more complex. Each regiment formed a number of 'Groups of Squadrons' (GE), each two squadrons strong, but the GE themselves were of several different types. Spahi regiments with North African personnel contained only two or three horsed Groups (GEM – *Groupes d'Escadrons Montés*). In contrast, the chasseurs d'Afrique regiments (RCA), with French personnel, could include GEM, GER (reconnaissance groups, with two mixed squadrons of armoured cars and motorcycle side-cars), GEP (lorried groups, with all-terrain Lafflys or GMCs), and GEC (armoured, with two squadrons of 22 or 23 ex-Chars de Combat Renault R35 or D1 tanks each). In addition to the regiments proper, there were also two independent lorried groups (the 10^{e} and 11^{e} GAPCA); and, stationed in French West Africa, the 8^{e} RCA and the 12^{e} GACA (whose 23 Somua S35s were to fight with some success in Tunisia). The Legion's cavalry regiment, the 1er REC, was differently organised again, with one GER, one GEM and a mixed machine gun and lorried GE. In late 1940

In 1917-18, American troops had French instructors. Twenty-five years later, the position was reversed. Here, in Algeria in December 1943, artillerymen of the 65^{e} RA d'Afrique, wearing 1940-style uniforms, learn about American 105mm shells. (US Army photograph)

the chasseurs d'Afrique were the first to experiment with a combination of mechanised cavalry and infantry tanks (GER/GEC), later made official on 1 December 1942, when the two arms were amalgamated at last to form the Armoured Branch (*Arme blindée*).

Divisional artillery principally comprised the 1897-pattern 75mm field gun, drawn either by horse or by motor vehicle; however, other types of weapons were available, notably 65mm and 75mm mountain guns and heavy batteries of 105mm or 155CS.

The uniform and equipment of those fighting in Tunisia remained essentially the French 1940 pattern: of the 1941 uniform, only the PT kit, and some shirts and ties, had reached North Africa. By the end of the campaign, however, some American supplies were beginning to reach the front (see Plate C2).

Under Vichy, new badges continued to be introduced. On 16 September 1941, the cavalry adopted a new badge, to be worn on the right breast of the armoured troops' jacket. This replaced the collar patches, but made use of their traditional colours, taking the form of a shield, with a device above the *soutaches* to indicate the branch of the wearer (see Plate D2). At the same time, the spahis received a new badge in similar style, to be worn on the upper left sleeve of the *gandourah* (baggy twill Arab shirt) which was *garance*, with *soutaches*, number and device (a crescent for Algerian and Tunisian regiments, a pentacle for Moroccan troops) all in jonquil yellow. These new badges, with many variants, were found on the original French uniforms in Tunisia, but also in Italy and France on uniforms of American origin.

A third *soutache* was introduced on badges and collar patches for troops in North Africa in the autumn of 1941. Although confirmed by a regulation of 17 July 1942, shortages in the region were such that it was rarely seen on French uniforms. The measure did not affect regiments of colonial troops.

The only other change affected the Signals: although their badges retained the black velvet backing of the Engineers, the colour of the *soutaches* and unit number on the collar patch was altered from scarlet to sky blue in July 1942.

These tank crews re-equipped by the Americans wore the 1941-pattern cloth badge on the sleeve, and not as per regulation, on the chest. The Tanks badge, as well as a sergeant's chevron, have been placed above the *soutaches* (either light grey or green – both were seen), which themselves lie above either the unit number or a small silver grenade.

REARMING THE FRENCH

In early 1943, while still engaged in Tunisia, the Army of Africa was able to begin a complete reorganisation and modernisation of its forces in Algeria and Morocco in preparation for future campaigns, thanks to the Lend-Lease legislation guaranteed by the Giraud-Murphy Agreement of 23 October 1942. General Giraud had originally planned to form 13 divisions, but shipping problems led to an immediate reduction to 11

Algiers, Sunday 14 May 1944. The half-tracks of a motorised unit parade past General Catroux, the Governor-General of Algeria, and General Béthouart. All the officers wear French service dress, but the half-track crews are wearing US uniforms. French emblems are visible everywhere: small tricolours outlined in white on the helmets and on the bumpers, and large 1804-pattern regimental colours (white in the centre, alternate blue and red corners) on the bonnet and sides of the half-tracks.

(eight infantry and three armoured) at the Casablanca Conference in January 1943. The first transatlantic convoy destined for the French arrived in North Africa on 14 April, and by July, an expeditionary force of 75,000 men, all fully equipped was ready for action.

The Anfa Plan, adopted at Casablanca, did not include the two Free French Divisions (1re DFL and the Leclerc Division). Indeed, these had been so successful in poaching men in North Africa that, in June, they had to be sent to Tripolitania, out of the way. Giraud and de Gaulle eventually came to an agreement, however, and on 1 August 1943, the Free French and the Army of Africa were officially amalgamated. This led to further difficulties, for the British wanted the return of all the equipment they had supplied to the Free French, while the Americans were unwilling to supply more than the 11 divisions agreed at Casablanca. Giraud was therefore obliged to include the former Free French units in his calculations, disbanding two of his divisions to make room. The Anfa Plan was modified: the Leclerc Division, an amalgam of ex-FFL and ex-Army of Africa, was renamed 2e DB in August 1943. The former 1re DFL, now the 1re DMI, remained purely 'Gaullist' despite its change of name, and was only re-equipped with US matériel in January 1944, when earmarked for Italy.

Giraud also faced a shortage of specialist personnel, since the numbers needed for support units had been greatly underestimated, and this led to the disbandment of three further divisions in 1943-44 (and thus five in total: 6e DIM, 7e and 8e DIA, 10e DIC and 3e DB). Just eight divisions, three of them armoured (see Table 4 opposite), were thus left to take part in the Liberation of Europe.

RIGHT **Three CEF officers in Italy, June 1944. From right to left, a captain of the 8e RCA wearing a 1935 helmet, and an arm patch with three *soutaches* (the third, added later, is of a slightly different colour); a captain in an American side cap, with the cloth CEF badge on his left sleeve; and an artillery captain, recognisable by his scarlet arm patch and his dark blue side cap with scarlet piping.**

Command and organisation

The reorganised French Army included a single general staff, first used

4 French Army Order of Battle Sept. 1943-May 1945 (formations from North Africa)

Formation	*General*	*Infantry (Btn level) or main body*	*Recce*	*TD Rgt*[1]	*Field Arty*	*Campaigns 1943-1945 and other comments*
A - ORDER OF BATTLE UNTIL SUMMER 1944						
● **Armies and Army Corps**						
CEF (also known as Détachement d'Armée A)	**Juin**	(1er, 3e, 4e GTM attached)	—	(7e 8e RCA)	64e RAA, RACL	*Italy (November 1943-July 44)*
1re Armée (Armée B until Sept. 44)	**de Lattre de Tassigny**		—	(2e RD)	—	*France 1944-45, Germany, Austria 1945*
1er CA	Martin	201e RP (2e GTM attached)	—	—	—	*Corsica (Sept. 43), Elba (June 44)*
● **Infantry divisions**						
1re DMI (Div. Motorisée d'Infanterie, ex-1re DFL)	Brosset	1re Bde : 1er, 2e BLE, 22e BMNA 2e Bde : BM 4, BM 5, BM 11 4e Bde : BIMP, BM 21, BM 24	1er RFM	(8e RCA)[1]	1er RA	*Italy (Apr.-Jul 44), France, Germany*
2e DIM (Div. d'Infanterie Marocaine)	Dody	4e, 5e, 8e RTM	3e RSM	(8e RCA)[1]	63e RAA	*Italy (Nov. 43-July 44), France, Germany, Austria*
3e DIA (Div. d'Inf. Algérienne)	de Goislard de Monsabert	3e, 7e RTA, 4e RTT	3e RSAR	(7e RCA)	67e RAA	*Italy (Dec. 43-July 44), France, Germany*
4e DMM (Div. Marocaine de Montagne)	Sevez	1er, 2e, 6e RTM	4e RSM	—	69e RAM	*Corsica (Sept. 43), Italy (Feb.-July 44), France, Germany*
9e DIC (Div. d'Inf. Coloniale)	Blaizot then Magnan	4e, 6e, 13e RTS	RICM	(RCCC)	RACM	*Elba (June 44), Italy, France, Germany*
● **Armoured divisions (DB = divisions blindées)**						
1re DB	Touzet du Vigier	*Tks:* 2e RC, 2e, 5e RCA *Inf.:* 1re DBZ	3e RCA	9e RCA	68e RAA	*France, Germany*
2e DB (ex-2e DFL, ex-Leclerc Column)	Leclerc	*Tks:* 12e RC, 12e RCA, 501eRCC *Inf.:* RMT	1e RMSM	(RBFM)	I/3e RAC, I/40eRANA, XI/64e RA	*France (Normandy), Germany*
5e DB	de Vernejoul	*Tks:* 1er RC, 1er, 6e RCA *Inf.:* RMLE	1er REC	(11e RCA)	62e RAA	*France, Germany, Austria*

1. Except 9e RCA, tank destroyer regiments did not belong organically to any formation, but were almost permanently allocated 'in support'. 8e RCA supported 2e DIM then from June 44 1re DMI.

B - MAIN CHANGES FROM SUMMER 1944 TO THE FORMATIONS MENTIONED ABOVE

1er CA: General Béthouart (Sept. 44). *Further campaigns:* France, Germany, Austria.
2e CA: (created Aug. 43 under General de Larminat, no operations until Sept. 44, then CO de Monsabert) *Arty:* I, II/RACL. *Campaigns:* France, Germany, Austria
1er DMI: General Garbay (Nov. 44, after Brosset's death). Units added: 11e Cuirassiers (ex-FFI) as an infantry regiment (Sept.44-Feb. 45).
2e DIM: General Carpentier (Sept. 44), then de Linarès (Apr. 45). All three RTMs became mixed (2 Moroccan, 1 Algerian bn. each) in August 44. 8e RTM replaced by 151e RI in March 45. 20e BCP (ex-20e BCA FFI) attached in March 45.
3e DIA: General Guillaume (Sep. 44). 7e RTA replaced by 49e RI (ex-CF Pommiès) in Feb. 45.
4e DMM: General de Hesdin (Dec. 44). 2e RTM replaced by 1er RTA in July 1944; 1er RTA replaced by 27e RI in Feb. 45.
9e DIC: General Morlière (Dec. 44), then Valluy (March 45). All three Senegalese regiments became 21e, 6e and 23e RIC respectively with European personnel (ex-FFI) in Nov. 44.
1re DB: General Sudre (Dec. 44)
5e DB: General Schlesser (April 1945).

General reserve units. *From North Africa:* 4e, 9e RZ, 1er, 2e RSAR, 1er, 3e Gpt de Choc. *From metropolitan soil:* 19e BCP, 24e BCA, 2e Gpt de Choc.

Key to new abbreviations

BMNA: Bataillon de Marche Nord-Africain
DBZ: Demi-Brigade de Zouaves
RMLE: Régiment de Marche de la Légion Etrangère
RCCC: Régiment Colonial de Chasseurs de Chars
RBFM: Régiment Blindé de Fusiliers Marins
RSAR: Régiment de Spahis Algériens de Reconnaissance.

in Italy by General Juin, to take command of the celebrated *Corps Expéditionnaire Français* (CEF), composed of four divisions (2e DIM, 3e DIA, 4e DMM and 1re DMI) and three groups of tabors.

At the same time, the 2e Armée (renamed Armée B on 23 January 1944)[2] was being assembled under the command of General de Lattre de Tassigny. In readiness for the landings in Provence, by July 1944 his command included the 9e DIC (which had captured Elba in June 1944) and the 1re and 5e DB (the 2e DB had sailed for Great Britain to take part in the Normandy landings) and, after their withdrawal from Italy, the divisions of the CEF. Armée B could now form

2 This designation is explained by the fact that the CEF was initially called 1re Armée from 18 November 1943, and later *détachement d'armée A.*

two army corps, and two armoured and five infantry divisions. It was given its final name – *1re Armée française* – on 19 September 1944.

Infantry divisions

The divisions of 1943 were organised on the American pattern, and as such were completely motorised, except for the 4e DMM, which included 530 horses and no fewer than 3,400 mules, which were to prove invaluable in the Italian mountains.

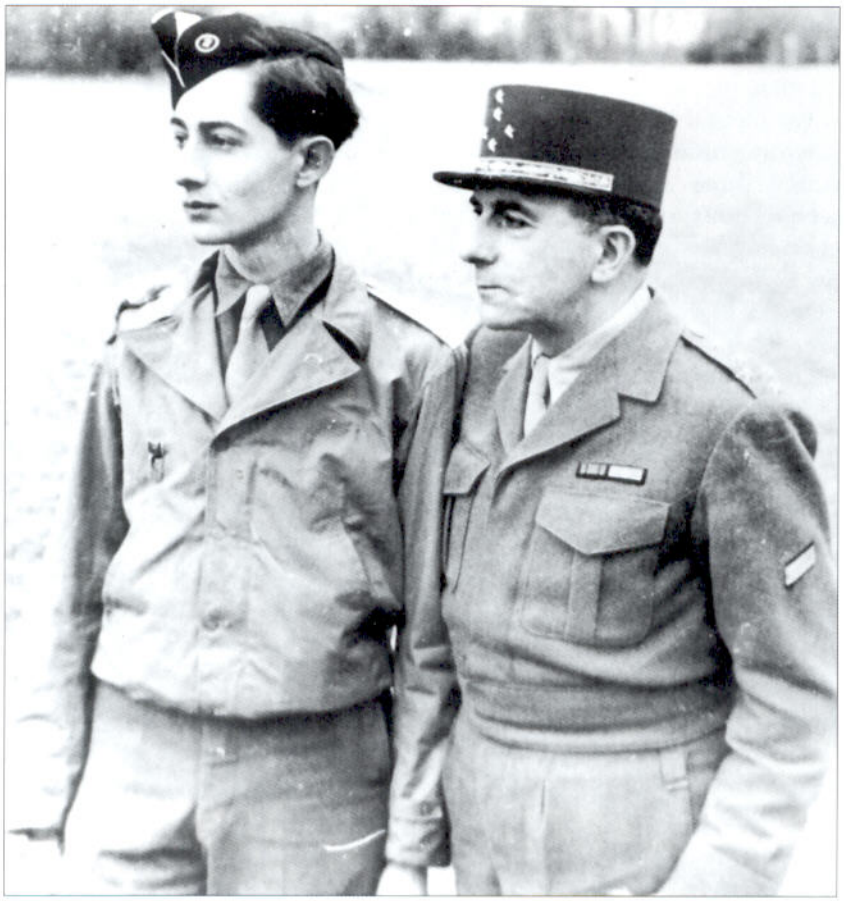
The infantry component consisted of three regiments of tirailleurs (92 officers, including ten Africans, and 3,100 men, including 2,100 Africans). Each regiment included an HQ company, an AT company (three platoons of four towed 57mm howitzers), an infantry gun company (six 105mm M3s) and three battalions. Each battalion contained an HQ company, three rifle companies (three platoons of three sections each, plus a machine gun platoon with three M1919 Brownings and three 60mm mortars) and a support company (two platoons of four M1917 Brownings, a platoon of six 81mm mortars, and a platoon of three towed 57mm anti-tank guns).

The mountain infantry regiments of the 4e DMM (4,030 men in total, including 3,080 Africans) included mule teams, with a mortar company with 12 81mm mortars replacing the infantry gun company. Each regiment had four rifle companies with a similar internal organisation to the above, except that they were equipped with only two light machine guns per company, and had no heavy machine guns).

The infantry division comprised an armoured reconnaissance regiment, which included an HQ squadron, one squadron of 17 M5 light tanks and three recce squadrons, with a total of 45 scout cars, 15 half-tracks and nine M8 self-propelled howitzers. A tank destroyer regiment was normally attached to most divisions, but not organically. This comprised an HQ squadron, a recce squadron and three squadrons of 12 M10 tank destroyers.

Divisional artillery normally comprised a regiment of four groups

A group of generals at Siena, Italy, 5 July 1944. On the left, wearing four stars, General Larminat (OC 2nd Corps) who, as a former Free French veteran, wears an FFL badge on his chest. In the centre, de Montsabert is wearing three stars and the badge of the 3e DIA, which he commanded, and a 1939-style French uniform. On the right in shirt sleeves and bare-headed, General Duval (infantry commander, 3e DIA, two stars) wears the brass CEF badge on his chest. Behind them is General Guillaume (the goumiers' commander) in a dark blue side cap with light blue piping and fold, and General Besançon (two stars, artillery commander of 3e DIA) wearing a dark blue side cap with scarlet piping. (OFIC)



Général d'armée Jean de Lattre de Tassigny and his son Bernard, a corporal in the 2e Dragons, in 1945. The younger man is wearing an American uniform, but with a very French side cap: dark blue with white piping and fold, with the regimental number. The badge on his chest portrays a dragon, and was adopted by the regiment when it was part of the Army of the Armistice. The story of the 2e dragons was an extraordinary one: after the invasion of the Free Zone, its standard was hidden and taken to Africa by a number of its men who had sworn to escape from the Germans and continue the fight; when the regiment was re-formed in North Africa in October 1943, it was with a majority of its former members. The general wears a French-produced uniform based on British battle-dress. His stars are, however, on his shoulder strap, and on his sleeve he wears a stripe as an 'honorary corporal'.

(three batteries of four tubes each per group) – one equipped with 12 towed 155mm HM1 and three with 12 105mm HM2; the artillery of the 4e DMM had only three groups, each equipped with French 1928-pattern 75mm mountain guns. Anti-aircraft artillery comprised one group of four batteries, each with eight 40mm Bofors.

Each division also included an engineer battalion (two field companies), a signals company, two transport companies (plus two mule companies in the 4e DMM), a repair company, a medical battalion and a supply group.

Armoured divisions

Like their American equivalent, French divisions were divided into Combat Commands, composed of an armoured regiment, an infantry battalion in half-tracks, a group of artillery and detachments from the other arms and services. CC1-3 were in the 1re DB and CC4-6 in the 5e. Combat Commands were also formed in the 2e DB, but here were given the French name *groupement tactique* (abbreviated to GT, followed by the initial of its commander – GTD (Dio), GTL (de Langlade), GTV, and GTR (Rémy) based on the recce regiment).

The new armoured division thus contained three armoured regiments, each with an HQ squadron, a squadron of 17 M5 light tanks and three squadrons of 17 Shermans. Each squadron had three platoons of five tanks each.

The infantry regiment, either zouaves (1re DB), marines (2e DB) or legionnaires (5e DB) was composed of 80 officers and 2,340 men, including only 170 Africans. There was no regimental HQ: each battalion operated independently within the Combat Command, and contained three rifle companies (three platoons of three sections) plus a support company (a reconnaissance platoon, a platoon with four machine guns, a platoon with three 81mm mortars and a platoon of three M8 SP howitzers).

The reconnaissance regiment was similar to that of the infantry divisions, but included an extra recce squadron, while the scout cars were replaced by M8 armoured cars. The artillery comprised three groups of 18 M7 Priest 105mm SP guns. The detachments from the other arms and services were the same.

American deliveries to the French were made according to the TOE of the US Army (overstaffed and over-equipped by French standards), and even included US flags, for which the French had little need! As a result, the French were able to use 'surplus' matériel to equip formations extra to those agreed under the Anfa Plan. Into

ABOVE **Colonel Durosoy, CO of the 2e Cuirassiers (1re DB), in Germany, at the end of May 1945. The 1re Armée's *Rhin et Danube* patch was distributed from the beginning of May. The colonel had his silver rank badge painted on the front of his helmet (a practice almost universal throughout the Army). He is also wearing a small bar with the name of his tank, 'Lyautey', above his medal ribbons.**

These goumiers in Italy in December 1943 have received an almost full set of American equipment: a winter hood, a waterproof coat worn over the *djellebah* and M1910 equipment. Boots have replaced their Moroccan sandals (see Plate D1).

this category come some classic units such as the 9e Zouaves and the special troops – goums and commandos.

Goumiers

The *Groupement mixte marocain* (GMM), under General Guillaume, included 12,000 goumiers, divided into four GTM. Each GTM (51 French officers, 170 other French personnel and 2,680 Moroccans) included a command and heavy weapon goum (two heavy machine guns, four light machine guns and three 57mm AT guns) and three tabors. Each tabor likewise included a command and heavy weapon goum (two heavy machine guns, three light machine guns and four 81mm mortars) and three infantry goums (each with two heavy machine guns, seven light machine guns and a 60mm mortar). Equipped with few motor vehicles, the GTM were particularly suited to mountain warfare, each including 370 saddle horses (there was a mounted element at all levels, ten troopers per goum, 30 per tabor, and 20 per GTM) and 400 mules.

Their weapons and equipment were quite varied. Initially equipped largely with French matériel, they received increasing amounts of American equipment in Italy over the winter of 1943-44.

The outposts of the 3e RSM in the Cassino area (Italy) during winter 1943-44. This photo shows many of the characteristic elements of the uniform and equipment of the 1re Armée, whose rifles were largely the 1903 Springfield (as here) or the 1917 model. Only the 1er RCP received the Garand M1. The helmets are French (including, in the foreground, a 1936 anti-aircraft troops' pattern), and have been decorated with a locally produced pentacle, the badge of Moroccan troops. Some 1940-style collar patches are sewn onto the collars of the US greatcoat.

Paras, commandos and Chocs

Free French paratroop units have been discussed above, and the 1er RCP, with its origins in the Army of Africa, is discussed under Plate F4.

In addition to those commando units created by the Free French (see above), three similar units – each the equivalent of a battalion – were raised in Algeria. The *Bataillon de Choc* (Commandant Gambiez), a unit trained as paratroops, was formed in June 1943, and participated in operations on Corsica and Elba, the capture of Toulon, and the campaign of 1944-45. The *Groupe de Commandos d'Afrique* under Commandant Bouvet, was created in July 1943, and included, among

The liberation of Villefranche-sur-Saône, north of Lyons, 3 September 1944. In the centre, wearing the 1935 motorised troops' helmet, is Capt. Giraud, the son of the general, who commanded the 3rd Squadron of the 9e RCA (CC2, 1re DB). On the left, wearing an American helmet, is a maréchal-des-logis of his squadron. Both wear their rank badges on their helmet, and the regiment's 1941-pattern cavalry patch on the chest (the NCO's patch includes his rank badge as well). On the right is an FFI officer, probably Capt. 'Claude' (Ziegel), CO of the 1er Btn du Charolais, wearing the 1935 motorised troops' helmet and goggles, and a 1941-pattern *vareuse* with a cross of Lorraine patch.

others, members of the disbanded Corps franc d'Afrique. It specialised in amphibious operations – Pianosa (March 1944), Elba, the first wave of the landings in Provence, Toulon and the 1944-45 campaign. Finally, the *Commandos de France* (see Plate E1) were raised in June 1944 before being grouped with the Bataillon de Choc on French soil in November 1944 to form the *Brigade de Choc* under Lt. Col. Gambiez five months later. This unit went on to form the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 1er *Groupement de Choc* on 5 January 1945.

Three other units were raised in liberated France. The *Commandos de Provence*, were formed in September 1944 (and with the Commandos d'Afrique, formed the *Groupement Bouvet*, then the 5th and 6th Battalions of the 3e Groupement de Choc). The *Commandos de Gayardon* and the *Commandos de Cluny* were formed from the maquis of Paris and central France; they went to form the 2e Groupement de Choc (2nd and 4th Battalions) at the end of August 1944.

UNIFORMS AND INSIGNIA 1943-44

As with arms and equipment, the uniform of the units formed under the Anfa Plan was provided entirely by the Americans, and was in every respect identical to that of the GI. French nationality had to be expressed through badges and, where possible, through head-dress.

National insignia

The first of these badges, adopted in mid-1943, consisted of the French cockerel against a rising sun, die-struck on an irregular polygonal plate.

1: Legionnaire, 14e DBLE, London, 14 July 1940
2: Tirailleur sénégalais, BM1, Gabon Expedition, November 1940
3: Free French Cadet, England, 1941-44

1: Camel trooper, Compagnie saharienne de Touat, 1940-43
2: Colonel Leclerc, Chad, 1941
3: Maréchal des logis-chef, 1er RMSM, Western Desert, 1942

1: French Squadron, SAS, Western Desert, 1942
2: Sergeant, 2e Régiment de tirailleurs algériens, Tunisia, 1943
3: Officer, 1er Régiment étranger d'infanterie de marche, Tunisia, 1943

1: Goumier, Liberation of Corsica, September 1943
2: Maréchal des logis, 5e Régiment de Chasseurs d'Afrique, 1943
3: Ambulance driver, 8e Bataillon Médical, Italy, 1943

1: Commando de France, Brigade de choc, winter 1944-45
2: SAS French paratrooper, Brittany, June 1944
3: Fusilier marin-commando, Walcheren, November 1944

1: Sous-lieutenant, 7e Régiment de Chasseurs d'Afrique, late 1943
2: Tirailleur algérien, Provence 1944
3: North African artilleryman, Provence, August 1944
4: Chasseur 1re classe, 1er RCP, Alsace, January 1945

1: Brigadier, Cavalry Squadron, 1er Régiment de France, August 1944
2: Gendarme fighting for the FFI, summer 1944
3: Commando, Corps franc Pommiés-49e RI

1: Infantryman, Forces Françaises de l'Ouest, France, 1945
2: Maquis of the Auvergne, formerly Jeunesse et Montagne, Alps, 1945
3: Infantryman in walking-out dress, Austria, summer 1945

This badge was manufactured locally, in reclaimed brass of mediocre quality. It should have been worn on the left side of the chest, and occasionally on the off-duty head-dress (see Plate F1). Better known as the CEF badge, it was later made in an embroidered version (like those of US Army formations) produced in the USA: the cockerel was yellow with a red crest against a yellow sun and a tricoloured background. This version was also worn on the upper left sleeve.

In November 1943, a set of two new embroidered badges, also made in the USA, was adopted to replace the cockerel: a tricolour cockade, red on the outside, was worn only on the US khaki side-cap (never on French pattern head gear) at an issue of one per man; and a tri-coloured shield, with 'France' on a bar across the top was worn on the upper left sleeve of all outer garments, at an issue of two per man. These badges were often only pinned on, allowing them to be detached easily (see Plate F3).

This chasseur of the 20e Bataillon (ex-FFI), photographed at the end of May 1945, wears an American tunic for walking-out. Shortages mean that its buttons have not been replaced by French ones (a source of American complaints since November 1943). His side cap, dark blue with jonquil yellow piping and fold, bears a small version of the badge of the 20e BCP (the full size version is on his chest pocket). On his shoulder strap is the badge of the 2e DIM (to whom the 20e was attached from March 1945), and a non-regulation green and yellow *fourragère*. On his left sleeve is the *Rhin et Danube* patch, and a 1941 regimental patch. (Coll. Max Silvestrini)

Arm-of-service badges

In 1943 brass badges similar to the cockerel pattern, but bearing instead the appropriate arm-of-service symbol (grenade, hunting horn, crescent, etc.) were adopted. These were little worn, and with the first distributions of American clothing were replaced by traditional collar patches, now sewn onto the upper left sleeve, about 15cm from the shoulder. These might be either the flattened diamond 1940 pattern, the more pointed 1941 version, or the pentagonal type for officers (for the colours, see Volume 1, Table IV). The *soutaches* (three where resources permitted, otherwise two) continued to be placed at the top edges of the patch. In the cavalry, these patches were often replaced by the 1941 shield-shaped badges, described above. On the US greatcoat, they were often sewn onto the collar, in the traditional French manner.

Rank badges

From mid-1943, rank badges for officers and senior NCOs (*adjudants*) were placed on the shoulder straps of American shirts and field jackets, often sewn onto a backing in a traditional colour. Junior NCOs (i.e. sergeants, corporals and *soldats de 1re classe*) wore chevrons on the upper left arm only, between any national badge and their arm-of-service patch. On greatcoats and US service dress, rank badges were worn on the cuffs, at least according to the regulations.

Helmets

As far as possible, French patterns were retained. A large part of the CEF, particularly the 3e DIA, was given the 1926-pattern helmet (and motorised troops the 1935 pattern with its padded band). In units wearing the American helmet, a small French flag was frequently

painted on the side of the M1 helmet, either the national flag (see Plate F4), or an 1804-pattern regimental colour (see Plate F1). In the 9e DIC, a colonial anchor was painted on the front. Although re-equipped with US uniforms at the start of 1944, the 1re DMI (formerly 1re DFL), retained the British steel helmet (often bearing a small painted tricolour or cross of Lorraine) as a reminder of their Free French origins; the tin hat helmets were replaced by M1s only at the end of 1944.

THE REVIVAL OF AN ARMY

From the end of 1943, several months before the landings in France, the CFLN in Algiers was making plans to utilise the nation's available manpower. Its programme was very ambitious, since it called for the creation of no fewer than 36 divisions (including the eight already forming in Africa). Although it was hoped that French industry would be able to clothe, equip and arm the new divisions, a re-examination of the situation forced them to look to the Allies for two-thirds of their needs. But the Americans thought that the army forming in Africa was as large as would be needed in the West, and were only willing to supply extra battalions to guard their lines of communication.

The discussions between the French and the Americans dragged on through 1944, sometimes amicable, sometimes hostile. Eventually, with the Battle of the Bulge raging, the Americans decided to provide a little more help, whilst the GPRF (*Gouvernement Provisoire de la République française* – the Provisional Government of the French Republic – as the CFLN was renamed on 3 June 1944) continued to pursue its policy of military renewal. Early in 1945, substantial Anglo-Canadian aid (notably 150 Cromwell tanks, 250 armoured cars and 5,200 lorries) helped towards this effort.

Maquis of the Haute Loire, following the liberation of Vorey-sur-Arzon, August 1944. The men of this FFI detachment are already doing their best to look like regular soldiers. In the foreground, Capt. Lacour is wearing a 1939-pattern officer's *vareuse*, while his men wear 1941-pattern shirts with shoulder straps. The trousers appear to be the khaki 1941 pattern. (Coll. Johan Aurelle)

Gendarmerie, *Garde* and police forces

Reorganising the professional forces of law and order was integral to the GPRF's plans. Early in June 1944, still under Vichy control, there were 36,606 departmental gendarmes (who functioned as police in rural areas), 2,758 *gardes de Paris*, and 5,840 gardes in the former Free Zone divided into six regiments. The police comprised 17,392 men in the Paris *Préfecture de police*, 29,183 in other municipal forces and 11,617 in the *Groupes mobiles de réserve* (GMR). The Milice, meanwhile, could field 6,695 men (see MAA 169, pp.19-20). Adding 7,033 *gardes de communications* and the 5,493 men of the Paris fire brigade (a military unit), the number of men in uniform amounted to the impressive total of 122,617 during the last weeks of the Occupation.

Having allied its fate with the Germans, the Milice either fled with the occupying forces or

The recently reformed 8e BCP in late September 1944, parade in Paris in immaculate order, uniforms entirely American except for the alpine beret. Their weapons are, however, obsolete 8mm 1907/15 or 1916 rifles.

tried to melt away into the countryside as the Allies advanced. In contrast, the traditional security forces, in line with their republican traditions, rallied to the GPRF ... when they were not actually taking the lead. In Paris, the police played a notable part in the capital's liberation. The controversial GMR were disbanded, only to be re-formed on 8 February 1945 as the CRS (*Compagnies républicaines de sécurité*).

In July 1944, the GPRF ordered the reorganisation of all formations connected with the gendarmerie, declared void all Vichy legislation which concerned them (particularly that of June 1942, which had placed them under the direct control of the Premier, Pierre Laval), and re-emphasised the idea that they formed part of the armed forces. Units of the garde had been attached to the cavalry of the Army of the Armistice on 25 November 1940, and then transferred to the Ministry of the Interior from April 1943, when they were organised as 'regiments'. In July 1944, under the GPRF rule, they regained their pre-war status and name, as *légions* of the *Garde républicaine mobile* (the GRM, not to be confused with the GMR). Even before this, on the night of 6 June 1944, a number of instructors and pupils of the Garde School had joined the maquis, soon followed by most of the men in the six regiments.

As the Allies advanced from town to town, so the gendarmes – whose respect for the law is one of the bases of French institutions – rallied to the new government, often anticipating the arrival of the Allies by taking an active part in the liberation of their area.

From Resistance to Regular Army

The plans laid down for gradual recruitment in France (of volunteers and conscripts) were wholly overtaken in the summer of 1944 by a totally unexpected event – the spontaneous, massive expansion of the *Forces françaises de l'intérieur* (FFI).

Set up at the beginning of 1944, in March the FFI were placed under

5 Main French formations raised on metropolitan soil from FFI units 1944-1945

Formation	*General*	*Infantry (Bn level) or main body*	*Recce*	*Field Arty*	*Date of creation and campaigns*
• Army Detachments and Army Corps					
DAAtl (Détachement d'Armée de l'Atlantique)	de Larminat	4e RZ, 8e RTS, Rgt AEF-Somalie	13e RD		1 March 45 from *Forces Françaises de l'Ouest* (FFO, created Oct. 44)
DAAlp (Détachement d'Armée des Alpes)	Doyen	3e, 99e, 141e RIA, 29e RTA, 18e RTS		69e RAA	1 March 45 from Secteur des Alpes (created Oct. 44)
3e CA	Lecure	—	4e RH	11e, 30e RA	28 Jan. 45. Formed from Feb. 45
• Infantry Divisions *(in chronological order of reconstruction, prior to 8 May 45)*					
19e DI	Borgnis-Desbordes	41e, 71e, 118e RI	19e RD	10e RA	6 Sept. 44 in Brittany. Fought in Lorient pocket
10e DI	Billotte	5e, 24e, 46e RI	18e RD	32e RA	1 Oct. 44. Fought in Alsace and in Atlantic pockets
27e DA (alpine)	Vallette d'Osia, then Molle (Feb. 45)	159e RIA, 5e [7e, 13e, 27e] DBCA 7e [6e, 11e, 15e] DBCA	5e RD	93e RAM	16 Nov. 44 as 1re DAFFI. Fought in the Alps
1re DI	Callies *then* Bertrand	1er, 43e, 110e RI	12e RCh	15e RA	12 Dec. 44. Sent to Germany early May 45, did not see action
23e DI	D'Anselme *then* Adeline	6e, 50e, 158e RI	18e RCh	12e RA	22 Jan. 45. Fought in Atlantic pockets (Royan-Aunis)
36e DI	Cazaud	14e, 18e, 57e RI	2e RH	24e RA	15 Feb. 45. Sent to the Alps, too late to see action
14e DI	Salan	35e, 152e RI, 3e [2e, 4e, 31e DBCP	12e RD	4e RA	16 Feb. 45. Fought in Alsace and Germany
25e DI	Chomel	21e, 32e RI, 4e [1er, 5e, 17e] DBCP	1er RH	20e RA	22 Jan. 45. Formed April 45, fought in Saint Nazaire pocket
• Colonial Infantry Divisions *(DCEO = Division Coloniale d'Extrême-Orient, intended for the Far East and the reconquest of Indochina)*					
1re DCEO	Nyo	16e, 18e RTS, Rgt AEF-Somalie	5e RC	10e RAC	16 Nov. 44. Did not see action, became 3e DIC in Aug. 45
2e DCEO	Astier de Villatte	2e Bde col. d'EO : 4e, 5e, 6e Bat. col. d'EO	8e RCh	7e RAC	1-27 Dec. 44. Did not see action, disbanded in June 45
		3e Bde légion d'EO : 1er, 2e, 3e BLE d'EO	*Tks:* 9e RD	8e RAC	
• Armoured Division					
3e DBde Langlade		*Tks:* 4e, 11e RC, 13e RD *Inf.:* 1re [8e, 16e, 30e] DBCP	11e RCh *TD:* 6e RC	16e RA	1 May 45. Did not see action

• Infantry regiments not part of a division (lines of communication, etc.): 4e, 8e, 13e, 23e, 26e, 33e, 34e, 38e, 39e, 42e, 48e, 51e, 60e, 65e, 67e, 80e, 81e, 91e, 92e, 94e, 95e, 106e, 108e, 114e, 117e, 121e, 126e, 129e, 131e, 134e, 137e, 146e, 150e, 153e, 170e, 173e.

Volunteers of 1944-45 under training. They are using up 1940-pattern uniforms, and are armed with captured German weapons.

the command of General Pierre-Marie Koenig, the hero of Bir Hakeim, whose HQ was then in London. The FFI grouped together all elements of the armed Resistance (see details in MAA 169, pp.20-21 and 23).

Estimated at 100,000 men at the start of June 1944, the total strength of the FFI exploded during the summer: by July there were 200,000 men under arms, and by October nearly 400,000. Advancing through France, Leclerc's 2e DB in the north, but particularly de Lattre's Army in the south, were joined by FFI companies, battalions, demi-brigades, regiments or brigades, which helped in the liberation of towns and villages or in pursuit of the enemy. Indeed, some FFI units such as the *Corps franc Pommiès* in South West France (see Plate G3), liberated whole areas on their own. These men were enthusiastic and dedicated, but were poorly equipped. They carried small arms (from hidden French caches, captured German weapons, or Allied weapons dropped by parachute), and differed as widely in name and strength as in military value.

The ski-scouts of the 159e RIA board lorries during the defence of Strasbourg in January 1945. Apart from one man with an American helmet, they are all wearing French mountain troops' uniform, with Bergen rucksacks and reversible anoraks. The helmets have no badge on the front, a practice almost universal in 1944-45. Their weapons are French (MAS36), British (a Bren), and German (a Panzerfaust). In the right foreground, a man wears a regimental arm patch below his speciality badge.

It would take several months to integrate FFI units into the regular army. They gradually received military instruction and new equipment, became battle hardened, and were welded together as units until they became full strength army battalions and regiments. Early in 1945, these new units took the regimental number of their town's 1939 garrison, and from 2 February 1945, the term FFI disappeared from official use. The amalgamation begun in October 1944 was now complete.

The divisions from Africa did receive some FFI reinforcements, particularly in infantry, to replace the heavy losses sustained in Italy (see details, Table 4, p.19). However, most men went into new units: not only the 120 battalions requested by the Americans to protect their communications, but also the complete divisions which the GPRF had planned from the start. The first FFI divisions were soon created on the secondary fronts (Brittany, the Atlantic pockets and the Alps) simply by grouping together all the maquis units in one area (see details, Table 5). Other divisions, created from a variety of sources, were used to relieve the veterans of the 1re Armée. In addition to the five infantry and three armoured divisions from Africa, by 8 May 1945, the GPRF was able to put into the field, a further eight infantry divisions, one armoured division, and two colonial divisions destined for the Far East. Counting local units and internal security troops, the French Army, on VE-Day, had 1.2 million men with the colours. Its total losses, since September 1939,

RIGHT **The colour of the 173e RIA (Corsica) and its colour guard, April 1945 – one of the first photos to show the new 1944 battledress uniform. Only the six men of the colour guard are wearing it, the remainder still wear the 1941 uniform. Every man is wearing a small dark blue beret, and is carrying a MAS36 with 1916 leather equipment. Note the absence of anklets (only Lt. de Villiers, the colour bearer, wears them). Other photos of the same event show that the 1945-pattern arm patches had not yet been distributed.**

Sergeant Jean-Pïerre Vauvillier (the author's father) photographed in the spring 1945. His arm badges consist of a rank stripe (gold braid on a dark blue backing) on both arms, and a shoulder title, worn only on the top of the left arm (partly visible on the wartime photograph): yellow silk lettering and gold metal figure on dark blue cloth. This is a good example of a non-regulation badge worn by an ex-FFI unit: founded as 'Maquis Foch' in the summer of 1944, the unit became 'Regiment Foch' and then 6e RI (23e DI) of the regular army.

amounted to 212,000 dead.[3] Five years after its terrible defeat, France had partially recovered its standing. Seeing General de Lattre at the table when signing the act of surrender at Rheims on 7 May 1945, Field Marshal Keitel exclaimed angrily, "What, the French as well! ..."

Uniforms, equipment and insignia 1944-45

Except the American-equipped units which had come from Africa, shortages of equipment and uniforms produced a poorly dressed French Army with a wide variety of weapons. At the end of 1944, the manufacture of small arms (MAS38 sub-machine guns, MAS36 rifles, FM24/29 light machine guns) was resumed on a small scale at the arsenals of St Etienne and Chatellerault, which were recovered in good order. Much use was made at first of existing uniform stocks (patterns of 1939-40 or 1941), supplemented by substantial Canadian aid, so it is unsurprising that the new campaign dress adopted in October 1944 was based on the Canadian model (see Plate H3). The 1941-pattern greatcoat was retained, but, in February 1945, a new arm patch was introduced, worn only on the left sleeve. This took the form of a diamond, with *soutaches* on all four sides (see Plate H3, and Table 6). Also adopted in 1945 were British pattern anklets, a new all-arms helmet with a frontal pad, and a new cartridge pouch (with two equal-sized compartments), but none of these new items were seen before the end of the war.

A new **side cap** was adopted in November 1944, still in khaki, but with piping in an arm-of-service colour. In practice, the side cap in traditional

3 92,000 men killed in 1939-40, 58,000 during various campaigns 1940-45, 24,000 FFI, and 38,000 from Alsace and Lorraine killed whilst serving in the German Army.

arm-of-service colours, first worn by the FFL, had been adopted by the Army of Africa in 1943, starting with the officers. By the summer of 1944, many units were entirely equipped with these caps, and their use became general in the new Army. Regulations could only confirm current practice, and in 1946, the cap became one of the most obvious elements in the new Army's uniform.

Formation badges usually took the form of a metal badge in traditional French style (as in the 3e DIA, for example). But, during the last days of the war, some formations, following British/American practice, and that of the 1re DFL, adopted a cloth badge, worn on the sleeve: for example, the 4e DMM (see Plate H3), the 27e DA (an edelweiss on a long diamond) or the 1re Armée (the 'Rhin et Danube' badge, see photo p.22).

6 Collar/left arm patch and coloured side cap, 1945

Arm-of-service	*Patch*	*Soutaches[1] and unit number[2]*	*Additional device[2]*	*Coloured side cap[6] Body*	*Top fold*	*Piping*
I - METROPOLITAN TROOPS						
Infantry	dark blue	2 garance	grenade	dark blue	garance	none
Chasseurs à pied	dark blue	2 yellow	horn	dark blue	yellow	yellow
Chasseurs alpins	dark blue	2 yellow	horn	(dark blue beret w/ yellow horn)		
Zouaves	dark blue	3 garance	crescent	garance	dark blue	none
Alg./Tun. tirailleurs	sky blue	3 yellow	crescent	sky blue	yellow	yellow
Moroccan tirailleurs	sky blue	3 light green	pentacle	sky blue	green	green
Foreign Legion inf.	dark blue	3 dark green	Legion grenade[3]	dark green	garance	none
Goumiers	dark blue	3 sky blue	crescent + star	dark blue	dark blue	sky blue
Cuirassiers	dark blue	2 garance	none	dark blue	garance	none[9]
Dragoons	dark blue	2 white	none	dark blue	white	none[9]
Chasseurs à cheval	dark blue	2 light green	none	dark blue	light green	none[9]
Hussars	dark blue	2 sky blue	none	dark blue	sky blue	none[9]
Tanks	dark blue	3 grey or 2 green	none	(small black beret w/ Tanks insignia)		
Chasseurs d'Afrique	dark blue	3 yellow	none	dark blue	yellow	none[9]
Algerian spahis	dark blue	3 yellow	crescent	garance	variable[7]	none
Moroccan spahis	dark blue	3 yellow	pentacle	garance	dark blue[8]	none
Foreign Legion cav.	dark blue	3 light green	Legion grenade[3]	dark green	dark green	dark blue
Artillery Rgts	scarlet	2-3 dark blue	none	dark blue	dark blue	scarlet
Mountain Artillery	scarlet	2 white	none	(dark blue beret w/ red grenade)		
Artillery Workshops	scarlet	0 yellow	none	dark blue	dark blue	scarlet
Engineers	black velvet	2-3 scarlet	none	dark blue	dark blue	scarlet
Signals	black velvet	2-3 sky blue	none	dark blue	dark blue	sky blue
Train	green	2-3 garance	none	dark green	dark green	garance
Administration	ash grey	0 garance	none	dark blue	ash grey	none
Medical Orderlies	garance	0 ash grey	none	dark blue	garance	none
Saharan Cies (foot)	light blue	3 yellow	Cross of Agadès[4]	dark blue	sky blue	none
Saharan Cies (mounted)	dark blue	3 garance	Cross of Agadès[4]	dark blue	sky blue	none
II - COLONIAL TROOPS (July 1945)						
Infantry (incl. locals)	dark blue	2 scarlet	scarlet anchor[5]	dark blue	dark blue	scarlet
Artillery (incl. locals)	scarlet	2 dark blue	dark blue anchor[5]	dark blue	dark blue	scarlet

Notes

1. From 1941, 2 soutaches for metropolitan units, 3 soutaches for units raised on North African soil (e.g. 2e and 12e Cuirassiers reraised in North Africa had 3 soutaches in 1943-44. But the 2e Dragons reformed in North Africa in 1943 retained 2 soutaches). Non-combatant units had no (= 0) soutaches.
2. The unit number and device were embroidered in gold or silver (according to the arm-of-service) for officers and NCOs. The device (if any) was under the figure, unless otherwise stated.
3. Large-sized hollow grenade with unit number inside and 7 flames (whereas the standard grenade is smaller, plain and features 9 flames).
4. Company number in the centre circle of the cross.
5. Without any unit number.
6. Or other traditional headdress when applicable (as there were no regulations before 1946 on coloured side caps, variants existed in a number of regiments. The table shows only the general situation in 1945).
7. According to the province of origin (1er garance, 2e white, 3e yellow).
8. But RMSM had an all-garance side cap.
9. Or sometimes piped in the same colour as the top fold.

Reinforcements destined for 15e BCA (ex-FFI) of the 27e DA, early in 1945. Their uniform is entirely French. Apart from the NCO, who wears a dark blue uniform of 1939-40, all the men wear khaki, with a dark blue beret. Oddly enough, their main garment is the 1941-pattern Colonial *paletot*, with an open collar; they carry 1916 carbines and the FM24/29. Note also the relative lack of equipment (e.g. equipment braces).

The sergeant *porte-fanion* of BM24 of the 1re DMI (ex-DFL), in December 1944, after the battle of Strasbourg. By this time, the *bataillons de marche* were composed entirely of Frenchmen. This man is a veteran with six chevrons above his cross of Lorraine, representing three-and-a-half years of fighting. He is wearing the Médaille Militaire, the 1939 *Croix de Guerre* with three palms, and the *Croix de Guerre TOE*. His uniform is wholly American except for his dark blue side cap with scarlet piping. (Private collection)

THE PLATES

A1 Legionnaire, 14e DBLE, London, 14 July 1940 On Bastille Day 1940, the various detachments of Free French troops paraded wearing a uniform which was entirely French. Distributed for the Norway Expedition, the Legion's uniform consisted of a 1926–pattern helmet with a grenade badge, the cotton 1938-pattern *veste-bourgeron* (see Volume 1, Plate B2) tucked into 1938-pattern 'golf' trousers; a blue woollen sash was worn around the waist under the equipment, and a fawn flannel sash was worn around the neck, tied like a *chèche*. The uniform was completed by puttees, ski socks and mountain boots, 1916-pattern individual equipment and the MAS36 rifle. Two unusual and non-regulation details revealed by contemporary photographs are shown here – a tricolour strip worn on the shoulder strap to show the wearer's allegiance to the Free French (see the machine gunner in the photo on p.3), and the NCO's collar patches. Some officers of the 13e (14e) DBLE wore dark blue patches instead of khaki on their tunics from 1940 onwards.

A2 Tirailleur sénégalais, BM1, Gabon Expedition, November 1940 For much of their existence, Free French tirailleur units were equipped with wholly French uniforms, either with the flannel tunic or paletot (see Vol. 1, Plate C3), frequently encountered in the Syrian campaign, or with the light khaki-coloured cotton uniform shown here, worn in West and Central Africa. BM1 was the only battalion to wear a distinctive badge, consisting of a cross of Lorraine placed on a triangle which was coloured by company (1st blue, 2nd red, 3rd yellow, 4th green). The equipment was standard but for two characteristic exceptions, the machete and the *barda sénégalais* (a tent section with the soldier's personal belongings rolled inside). Although shown here, it is unlikely that the ANP 31 gas mask was issued for operations in Black Africa. From the summer of 1941, newly raised or reorganised units in the Near East received complete British khaki drill uniforms, with 1937-pattern webbing, and Mk.II helmets with a tricoloured diamond painted on the side.

A3 Free French Cadet, England, 1941-44 The officer cadet school which functioned between January 1941 and June 1944 kept alive all the traditions of the chasseurs. The walking-out uniform was British, but it was always worn with the large Alpine beret, bearing a badge of a hunting horn surmounted by a grenade with upright flames, the badge of all French Army schools. The same badge was also worn on the collar patches. On one shoulder was the lanyard worn by British cadets (incorrectly referred to as a *fourragère* by the French cadets), and on the chest were two metal badges: that of the Free French ground forces, and the cross of Lorraine of the FNFL. On the shoulder straps was a silver-plated title 'France'. Whilst on exercise, cadets wore the reduced French order (canvas *veste-bourgeron*, the same as A1), with a French 1926–pattern helmet, whose customary metal badge had been removed and replaced by a painted one.

B1 Camel trooper, Compagnie saharienne de Touat, 1940-43 Among the troops assembled in the summer of 1940 by Col. Leclerc were three 'nomad groups' (GNs) attached to the *RTS du Tchad*, two of which (those of Ennedi and of Tibesti) retained their dromedaries. With three Frenchmen and 45 locals, the Tibesti group was the first unit under purely Free French command to engage the enemy, in a raid in January 1941 on Italian outposts in the Fezzan. The two groups then performed a wide range of duties in support of the Leclerc column up to the conquest of Tripolitania in January 1943. But the main camel-mounted forces did not undertake operations until French forces in Africa went over to the Allies in November 1942. Operating in the extreme south of Tunisia against the Italians, four companies – those of the Ahaggar, Touat, Tidikelt and Ajjer (a total of around 1,200 men) – joined the Leclerc column on 25 January 1943.

Their uniform was largely made up of the trooper's own clothing (each trooper hired out his services and his camel to the French government), with the addition of official equipment, the 1892-pattern carbine and some items of field dress. Only the French cadres had a proper uniform, similar to that of the spahis (with their own *képi* and collar patches, see Vol.1, Tables II and IVa).

B2 Colonel Leclerc, Chad, 1941 Philippe de Hautecloque served as a captain on the North-East Front until the Armistice of June 1940. Wounded in the head, he managed to escape, and reached London by way of Spain and Portugal in July 1940. From there de Gaulle sent him to Africa under the *nom de guerre* of 'François Louis Leclerc' where he brought the Cameroons over to the Free French side on 26 August 1940. For the purposes of his mission, Leclerc assumed the rank of colonel, a promotion which de Gaulle confirmed three days later. Leclerc was later promoted to *général de brigade* on 30 March 1942 (see MAA 238, Plate F2). The plate is based on a photograph taken at Fort Lamy in Chad in April 1941, after the celebrated raid on the Koufra oasis. Colonel Leclerc is wearing an Italian sun helmet and a regulation Colonial troops' khaki flannel tunic with Saharan sandals. On his chest is pinned the FNFL cross of Lorraine. The walking stick remained Leclerc's favourite badge of rank until the end of the war.

B3 Maréchal des logis-chef, 1er RMSM, Western Desert, 1942 The Escadron Jourdier (the former 1st Squadron of the 1er RSM in the Near East) fought on horseback until the end of the Syrian campaign, wearing the classic uniform of the spahis (see Vol. 1, Plate D2), but with several differences in detail. The uniform of units in the Near East was made from sand-coloured twill because of the climate, the helmet and gas mask were not worn, and the firearm was the MAS36.

Shortly after the end of the campaign, the Free French spahis were mechanised and increased in number to form three squadrons. They were first equipped with French vehicles seized in Syria in the summer of 1942, then with British equipment with which the unit, by now named 1er RMSM (*Régiment de marche de spahis Marocains*), took part in the El Alamein operations. During this period, the spahis' uniform was a mixture of French (from stocks in the Near East) and British items. Armoured car crews wore a 1915–pattern Adrian helmet, transformed into a motorised type by removing the frontal peak and badge and replacing them with a padded band. Rank braid, gold in the spahis, was worn on garance sliders. The badge on the chest (a cross of Lorraine on a pentacle, all in silver) was devised at the end of 1940. The collar patches, rarely seen in campaign dress, had three *soutaches* from the autumn of 1941, curiously following the Vichy regulations.

C1 French Squadron, SAS, Western Desert, 1942 In the spring of 1941, the 1re CIA, stationed in Great Britain, received considerable reinforcements, which enabled it to form two sections. The first, incorporated in the BCRA (see MAA 238, p.33 for more details) specialised in espionage work and sending small teams into occupied France. The second (which, in September 1941, took the title of 1re *Cie. de chasseurs parachutistes*) was posted to the Middle East. From early 1942, it was incorporated into the SAS Brigade, forming its 3rd Squadron, and in June and July took part in commando raids against airfields in Cyrenaica, Crete and Egypt. For these raids, the French were equipped with vehicles from the Long Range Desert Group; then,to allow them to act independently, they received a number of specially equipped and armed jeeps. At the end of 1942, the unit contained two companies. The survivors of the 1st Company returned to England, while the 2nd Company remained in the field until the Tunisian campaign (see E2).

Camel troopers of a Saharan company, about 1940. The white uniform is characteristic of Arab troopers, while Touaregs wore dark blue. Both wore black *séroual* (wide, loose trousers) with a red woollen sash. In campaign order, both wore a uniform in light khaki, which included a shirt, a long gandourah and séroual. The belt-bandolier is the 1907 pattern, with compartments for three-round clips.

Algiers, 9 February 1943. In this unusual photo, the French are training on American equipment, but have not yet been re-equipped. Here, a lieutenant of the 1er Zouaves takes part in a radio exercise from a scout car. In the background, however, the Pétainist motto, *Travail, Famille, Patrie* (Work, Family, Country) is still displayed over the barracks entrance. (US National Archives)

The plate is taken from a well-known series of photographs taken in the Western Desert in the summer of 1942. As with many 8th Army units, the emphasis is on comfort, rather than style. Dressed for cold nights, this man is wearing 1937–pattern British battle dress, but with the drill lining removed from the collar, and replaced by khaki serge. Instead of webbing anklets, he is wearing puttees. His headgear consists of an Arab head-dress worn over a rolled-up balaclava. Only the Free French paratrooper's wings over his left pocket distinguishes his uniform from that of British troops – although others featured in the same series wear theirs over their right pocket, while two men are wearing British SAS wings instead. His pistol holster has been modified to hang from the waistbelt by straps and rings, a common practice within the French SAS Squadron.

C2 Sergeant, 2e Régiment de tirailleurs algériens, Tunisia, 1943 Throughout the Tunisian campaign, the Army of Africa had to rely almost entirely on its own resources. Deliveries from America had hardly begun at the start of 1943, and in any case were destined principally for those units then reorganising in Morocco and Algeria. Only a few new weapons (largely 1928 Thompson sub-machine guns) were put into service on the Tunisian front, and the uniforms remained those of 1939-40 until the final victory in May 1943. This man is wearing the 1938 single-breasted capote and the African troops' baggy *pantalon-culotte* with puttees. His collar patches still have two *soutaches* instead of three. Below the number, a little disc of cloth indicates the battalion (1st dark blue, 2nd red, 3rd jonquil yellow, HQ khaki) – a regulation introduced in 1916 for all infantry, but rarely followed in the field.

C3 Officer, 1er Régiment étranger d'infanterie de marche, Tunisia, 1943 This lieutenant of the 1er REIM is a typical French officer on the Tunisian front between November 1942 and spring 1943. The elegant officer's fawn breeches of 1939-40 have given way to Other Ranks' golf-pattern trousers, worn either with puttees or, as here, with privately purchased leggings. The tunic is the 1939–pattern officer's vareuse, with an open collar and pentagonal collar patches. The képi is here worn without its cover (tirailleur officers also wore a cover, in sand-coloured cloth, often with a hole cut to reveal the rows of rank braid). He is wearing a Sam Browne-style belt – the second strap was only rarely worn – with a 1876/93-pattern pistol holster; officer's gloves and a typical light khaki *chèche*.

D1 Goumier, Liberation of Corsica, September 1943 The goumiers' main item of clothing was the Moroccan *djellebah*, a kind of cape with sleeves and a hood (*koub*). The *djellebah*, coarsely woven from wool in stripes of black, white, grey and brown (each goum having its own pattern), was made waterproof by the inclusion of quantities of goat hair into the fabric. Underneath were more conventional items of uniform, in drill or serge according to the season, similar to those of the tirailleurs or spahis. In camp, depending on the wearer's tribe, the headgear was either the *khiout*, a skull-cap of brown wool; the *rezzah*, the everyday head-dress of Moroccan troops, or sometimes the *chèche*. From the summer of 1943, the American M1917A1 helmet was worn in combat, sometimes with a cloth cover or a camouflage net; the 1926 French helmet was also seen, but only very rarely. Footwear was usually of local manufacture, with footless woollen socks (*tariouines*) and sandals (*naïls*, pl. *naala*), though French 1917-pattern boots were also occasionally seen. Equipment and weapons were French.

From the end of 1943, however, the goumiers were gradually re-equipped and rearmed with American matériel, including boots and M1930 leggings. The helmet remained unchanged for the rest of the war, unlike the *djellebah*, which for the campaigns of 1944-45 was of a new, standardised pattern, composed of fine black, brown and green lines, giving an overall appearance close to khaki. Unit patches were rarely worn: at first, they consisted only of the number of the tabor. During 1943, however, a pattern common to all GTMs, with a star and crescent, was adopted. The patch shown here is surmounted by the two stripes of a *haoun* (corporal).

D2 Maréchal des logis, 5e Régiment de chasseurs d'Afrique, 1943 This NCO is taking part in the parade of July 1943, when the regiment was still equipped with British Valentine tanks, used in the Tunisian campaign. For a short time, the uniform remained completely French: 1941-pattern shirt (similar to that of 1935, but with shoulder straps), 1941-pattern tie, 1937-pattern Colonial shorts, khaki puttees, and the red sash with white and blue binding of African cavalry. An entirely new item was the 1941-pattern cavalry arm-of-service badge (originally intended for wear on the chest, but worn on the arm from the start of 1943), surmounted by rank braid (here, in silver). The 1943 *Croix de Guerre*, or *Giraud*

Croix de Guerre, was made locally – the strike, with the date 1943, was not as sharp as those made on the mainland for the crosses of 1914-18 and 1939-40. The ribbon, in theory the same as that of 1914-18, had to be made from local material when stocks of the original were exhausted, resulting in issues like that shown here, in bluish-green with five pale orange-red stripes.

D3 Ambulance driver, 8e Bataillon médical, Italy, 1943 There were no women's services in the Army of 1939. However, by the end of 1943, some 3,100 women had enlisted, serving with French forces in the field, or with Allied Headquarters in North Africa. Most were employed as secretaries and drivers, although there were also contingents serving as signals personnel and as nurses. These women were issued with American Women's Army Corps (WAC) uniforms, which should have been modified by adding French buttons and arm-of-service badges, but not all examples were altered in this way. After the first deliveries had been made, American officials decided that, even with French badges, the wearing of the distinctive WAC caps by French personnel was too confusing, and these had to be withdrawn, to be replaced by garrison caps. After all female personnel had been reorganised to form the *Auxiliaires Féminines de l'Armée de Terre* in April 1944, their director asked for an issue of British ATS uniforms which were felt to be more practical to replace the US clothing. This request was refused, and female personnel wore American uniforms until the end of the war. This woman has added the general pattern of the CEF badge to her cap, and the battalion's metal badge to her shirt, but her uniform is otherwise wholly American.

E1 Commando de France, Brigade de choc, winter 1944-45 By the end of the war, all French commandos were wearing the dark blue beret – once the prerogative of the Commandos de France alone, but by then characteristic of the *Chocs* as a whole. In this unit, the beret, made from several pieces of cloth with a leather binding, was normally worn without any kind of badge, although the unit's badge – a parachute, wings, star and the cross of Lorraine did occasionally make an appearance as here. The same badge, made in metal, was worn on the chest for walking-out. In the Bataillon de Choc, the same beret had only recently been issued, replacing the American side cap in the autumn of 1944, and bearing a metal badge consisting of a parachute and dagger on a tri-coloured map of France. At the top of the left sleeve, both of these units wore a cloth shoulder title bearing the unit's name (in yellow on green for the Bataillon de Choc); but only the Commandos de France added a star with a cross of Lorraine (the star was traditionally used in the French Army, to identify scouts and groupes francs).

Dress and equipment were wholly American, apart from some occasional additions, as here, where the chèche worn as a scarf. The weapons were a mixture of French and American types (here an M3 Grease Gun). The helmet was frequently the M1, or more rarely the French 1935 motorised troops' helmet, normally without a badge (at this time the 1935 helmet was much more typical of the Commandos d'Afrique).

E2 SAS French paratrooper, Brittany, June 1944 After their operations in Africa and the Mediterranean in 1942-43 (see C1), the two Free French paratroop companies re-formed in England in 1943; there, reinforced by escapees from France, they formed the 1er BIA (*Bataillon d'infanterie de l'air*), renumbered the 4e in November 1943. Meanwhile the 3e BIA had been formed with volunteers from the Near East. After intensive training in England and Scotland, the two battalions were renamed as regiments in April 1944 (though remaining at only battalion strength), and the 4e was renumbered again, becoming the 2e RCP (for the 1er, see Plate F3).

On the eve of D-Day, 32 pathfinders of the 2e RCP had the signal honour of being the first Allied soldiers to land in France, on the night of 5 June. The mission of the 2e RCP was to fix the German forces in Brittany with the aid of local resistance forces. As for the 3e, it parachuted in on 2 August on a similar mission, but with a more extensive area of operations, dispersing in Brittany and the Loire Valley on the flanks of the Allied advance.

The French paras of 2e and 3e RCP wore entirely British uniforms, the only difference lying in their badges.

E3 Fusilier marin-commando, Walcheren, November 1944 In the spring of 1941 15 fusilier-marin volunteers (the fusilier-marin is a trade specialisation of the French Navy), recruited by Lieutenant de vaisseau Kieffer, took part in a

Landing on the beach at Foux, Provence, in August 1944, these women volunteers are probably *Merlinettes* from one of the signals companies of the 2nd Corps or from Armée B. Except for one who wears a French helmet, their uniform and equipment are American. They are also wearing the waterproof tricolour brassard issued to all personnel of Armée B for Operation Dragoon.

A goumier during the Italian campaign, wearing an American M1917A1 helmet with camouflage net and, beneath his *gandourah* (an early pattern with broad stripes), a US field jacket. His equipment is American, but his weapon is a French 1892 M16 carbine. Most interesting is his arm patch – a light blue diamond with his tabor number, *17* (3e GTM), crudely cut out of dark blue cloth and stitched on.

training course with the Royal Marines, and in March 1942, entered the Commando Training School at Achnacarry in Scotland. Named the *1re Compagnie de fusiliers-marins commandos*, the unit was attached to No. 2 Commando, then to No.10 Inter-Allied Commando, where it became Troop 1, and took part in the Dieppe raid of August 1942. In July 1943, the unit became 1er BFMC (Troops 1 and 8 of No. 10 Commando), before finally being attached to No. 4 Commando in March 1944. At dawn on 6 June, Kieffer's men landed on Sword Beach (see MAA 238, Plate F3).

The French commandos next saw action during the operations around the Scheldt estuary, at Flushing and at Walcheren. By this time, they had exchanged their battle-dress blouses for Denison smocks, worn without badges. His webbing pouches are of standard British pattern, and are worn with a Bergen rucksack. Better safe than sorry, this man has taken the precaution of carrying a lifebelt, looped around his pouches by one of its straps. As a matter of pride, most commandos retained the beret they were wearing when they landed in France, although by the end of the year, these were looking rather the worse for wear. In combat, they were usually replaced by Mk.II helmets, although small numbers of the Mk.III pattern had been issued.

F1: Sous-lieutenant, 7e Régiment de chasseurs d'Afrique, late 1943 The uniform of this regiment was completely at odds with the traditions of the chasseurs d'Afrique (see Plate D2). In fact, the regiment had been formed entirely from members of the Chantiers de jeunesse d'Afrique du Nord, whose leader, commissaire régional Van Hecke (the regiment's future colonel) was one of the five 'Conspirators of Algiers', who paved the way for the arrival of the Americans in November 1942.

Dressed and equipped by the Americans, the regiment retained several items from the CJF uniform: the forest green beret (similar in cut to the 1935 fortress troops' pattern), forest green tie and dark brown leather jacket with chest pockets. Rank badges were worn on the chest. On the beret was pinned the brass CEF Badge.

F2: Tirailleur algérien, Provence, 1944 In theory, French troops landing in Provence were supplied with a waterproof brassard depicting the Tricolour (like the Stars and Stripes model issued to American troops, or the Union Flag design issued to British paras of the 1st Airborne Task Force). This man's helmet is the 1926 French model with a light khaki cloth cover. His uniform is otherwise completely American and consists of the herringbone twill suit, boots and gaiters, and webbing pouches.

F3: North African artilleryman, Provence, August 1944 Taken from a photograph, this man is dressed entirely as per the regulations of summer 1944, with a cockade on the American side cap (regulation, but almost never worn), the tricolour patch with 'France' (seen rather more frequently) and the regimental patch (worn often). In this case, the latter is simply the old collar patch.

F4: Chasseur parachutiste, 1er RCP, Alsace, January 1945 Several paratroop detachments, originally from the 601e and 602e Groupes d'infanterie de l'air, formed in 1937, were reformed in the Army of the Armistice in March 1941 and were stationed in North Africa. They were increased to battalion strength in February 1943 and three months later, to a regiment of two battalions, the 1er RCP. To the regiment's regret, it never made an operational jump, all its proposed operations being cancelled. Nevertheless, its men fought valiantly as infantry in the Vosges and on the plains of Alsace between October 1944 and February 1945.

The regiment, unlike their comrades of the 2e and 3e RCP, were equipped by the Americans. This man wears the parachute and wings badge of French paratroopers painted on the front of his helmet, just above his rank chevron.

G1: Brigadier, Cavalry Squadron, 1er Régiment de France, August 1944 The 1er Régiment de France (see Volume 1) refused to participate in the Vichy Government's attempt to 'maintain public order', confining themselves to protecting economically important civilian installations from sabotage. They got their chance to taste action on 20 August 1944, when the cavalry squadron of the 3rd Battalion, part of the FFI Brigade (AS-ORA) *Charles Martel* from earlier that month, entered the town of Châteauroux on the heels of the retreating Germans. The cavalry of the 1er RdF wore the 1941 uniform, with 1935-pattern equipment and the MAS36 rifle (for details see Volume 1, Plate H3); they were distinguished from their infantry colleagues by their breeches, leggings and spurs. Junior NCOs' braid was blue in the 1st and 3rd battalions, and red in the 2nd. The patch of the 1er RdF was

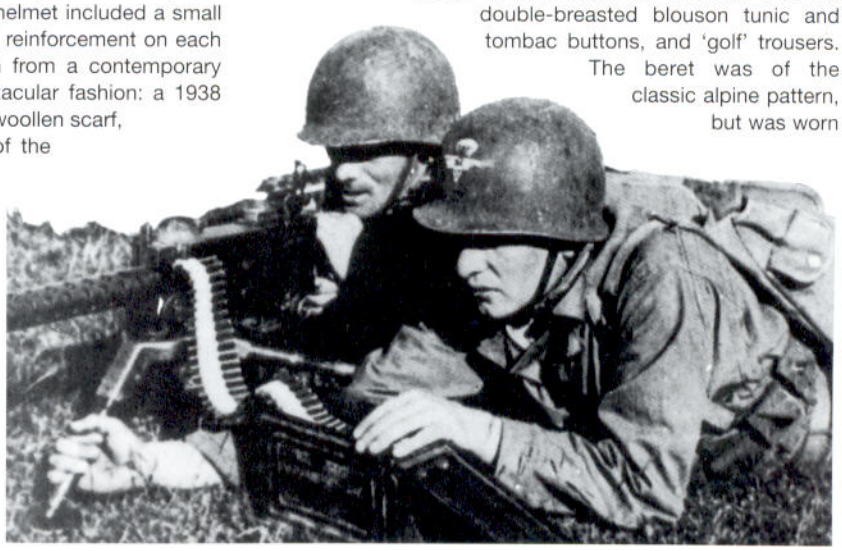
khaki with the number embroidered in blue silk, and two *soutaches* in blue (1st Battalion), red (2nd) or white (3rd). At the end of August, after several heavy engagements with the Germans, the cavalry of the 1er RdF abandoned the patches of the 'Traitor Pétain's Regiment', and adopted those of the 8e Cuirassiers (dark blue with *garance* and numbers), which was re-forming in the area. The remainder of the regiment did the same, and it went to form the basis of several infantry units, notably the 1er, 27e, and 68e RI, and the 5e and 17e BCP.

G2: Gendarme fighting for the FFI, summer 1944 The uniform of Departmental gendarmes saw no changes between 1940 and 1944. The *vareuse* (tunic) was identical to that worn by re-enlisted NCOs in the Army, but in black cloth with nine closely spaced buttons. All the metal decorations (buttons, grenade badges at the collar, rank braid and helmet grenade badge) were in nickel, the distinction of the Departmental Gendarmerie; the Garde de Paris and the GRM (renamed the Garde in 1940) wore the same badges, but in gold. The Garde had an all-khaki uniform which included a vareuse with an open collar. All gendarmes wore at least the single stripe of the maréchal-des-logis; after five years' service, a second stripe was added, as here. The trousers are in gendarme blue, with highly polished leggings, and NCO pattern boots. The equipment is a Sam Browne-style belt, but since the gendarme carried a lot of equipment on his belt, both braces are worn. In the gendarmerie, the holster was worn on the left. Gendarmes in the Occupied Zone were not permitted to carry a carbine, only an automatic pistol (here a Ruby 7.65mm). A tricolour brassard with the cross of Lorraine (there were innumerable variations) shows that this man is under the authority of the local Resistance commander.

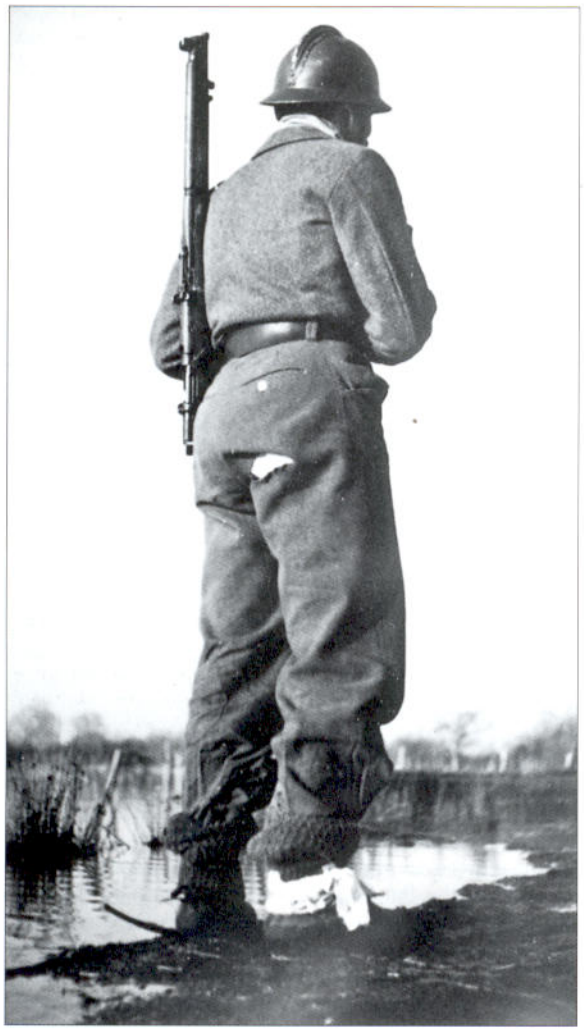
G3: Commando, Corps franc Pommiès - 49e RI This magnificent FFI unit (see text) was converted into a regular regiment in de Lattre's army at the end of October 1944, with a strength of two battalions, plus four attached commandos, each of 280 men. From November the CFP-49e RI was engaged continuously in heavy fighting in the Vosges and elsewhere until the end of the war. The commandos of the CFP usually wore the 1935 motorised troops' helmet, though a very small number managed to acquire the extremely scarce 1941–pattern helmet shown here (see also the photo in Volume 1). Unusual in shape, the helmet included a small welded crest with a distinctive metal reinforcement on each side of the thick frontal pad. Taken from a contemporary photo, this man is dressed in spectacular fashion: a 1938 neck warmer worn as a balaclava, a woollen scarf, the forest green waterproof jacket of the CJF (broadly similar in shape to the 1938 double-breasted jacket for motorcyclists, but with a more pointed collar, and without shoulder straps – see Volume 1, Plate E3), khaki canvas trousers worn over a US woollen pair, and American gaiters and boots. His weapon is a British Sten, his belt is French, and his water-bottle captured from the Germans. Finally, the badge of the CFP, in a very large format, is sewn on his right sleeve. In the CFP many chasseurs wore a much less eccentric uniform consisting of a US greatcoat with or without the CFP badge. Although part of an infantry regiment, CFP soldiers were proud of their Pyrenean origins, and also had the small dark blue/black Basque beret for wear in camp.

H1: Infantryman, Forces Françaises de l'Ouest, France, 1945 Responsible for covering the pockets of German resistance on the Atlantic coast, the units of the FFO (mockingly called *Forces Françaises Oubliées* – the 'forgotten French forces') were the worst equipped of any section of the rejuvenated Army. Uniformed and armed with whatever was lying around, they were sometimes reduced to wearing clogs (which could at least be packed with straw to keep their feet warm during the winter of 1944-45). The rest of this man's uniform includes a 1941–pattern greatcoat (in a very mediocre cloth containing a good deal of rayon, giving the khaki a greyish hue), a 1926–pattern helmet on which has been painted a cross of Lorraine and a V for Victory, a single 1916–pattern cartridge pouch, a bandolier of clips, and a captured Mauser 98k. All kinds of tricolour insignia proliferated at this period.

H2: Maquis of the Auvergne, formerly Jeunesse et montagne, Alps, 1945 On 3 June 1944, the leaders' school of the *Jeunesse et montagne* (a youth movement like the CJF, but trained by the Vichy Air Force) formed itself into a maquis unit in the Cantal, in the Auvergne. The *Maquis Thollon*, named after its commander, initially numbered 160 men from the JM, but by the time of the liberation of Lyons at the beginning of September 1944, had expanded to 1,350 (drawn from the several networks of Air Force resistors). In mid-August, the unit was renamed as the *Colonne rapide no.6 des FFI d'Auvergne*. Unlike many resistance units whose members wore civilian dress, many of Thollon's men wore the regulation uniform of the Jeunesse et montagne in *bleu louise* (the Air Force colour similar to the *gris de fer bleuté* of the chasseurs à pied): a smart double-breasted blouson tunic and tombac buttons, and 'golf' trousers. The beret was of the classic alpine pattern, but was worn



This close-up of a Browning .30 team, taken during training, shows the painted badge on the front of the helmets of the 1er RCP: parachute, wings and star (numerous versions exist). The US M1C paratroops' helmet was never widely used within this regiment.



'Soldiers of Year 2', 1944 style. These two previously unpublished photos show the critical state of the Forces Françaises de l'Ouest. These are men of the Brigade Carnot FFI (CO Colonel de Milleret) before Royan, during the winter of 1944-45. The man on the left, armed with an SMLE No. 1, has a hole in the seat of his trousers, and has tucked his trousers into his socks. On the right, carrying a large loaf, an ex-FFI man wears a 1915 Adrian helmet, a mismatched 1939-pattern uniform in various colours, and carries a Sten gun with hand-made pouches.

without a badge. The general badge of the JM (whose cockade, two-thirds hidden behind a mountain peak, symbolised the renaissance of French aviation) is sewn on the right chest. This man is also wearing white woollen skier's socks, with a second pair of heavy socks rolled over his 1940-pattern mountain boots. JM permanent staff wore white shirts (ordinary members dark blue), a black tie (absent here), and an officer's black leather belt. Only the FFI brassard and the weapon are non-regulation: on 5 and 14 July, substantial Allied parachute drops supplemented Thollon's stock of arms (such as this Ruby pistol) allowing him to arm his men easily (here, with a Lee-Enfield No.4).

H3: Infantryman in walking-out dress, Austria, summer 1945 Wearing his smart bonnet de police (side cap) in the traditional colours of his arm-of-service, this corporal (two strips of red braid on the cap, and again at the top of each sleeve) has just received the new French 1944-pattern uniform, an almost identical copy of Canadian battledress, with the buttons in a fly front. Besides the quality of the cloth used – usually very mediocre, and in shades of khaki which ran from mustard to field-grey (when it came from captured German sources) – this uniform was distinguished from the Canadian pattern by its tailored collar, with no hook and eye closure. Intended as a combat uniform, it was worn essentially as walking-out dress. On the left sleeve (only) is the cloth badge of the 4^{e} DMM and the diamond-shaped 1945-pattern patch of the 27^{e} RI, whose *fourragère* is in the colours of the *Croix de Guerre 1914-18.* The regimental badge, now more usually pinned to a leather fob, is apparent hanging beneath the flap of the right pocket, leaving the left free for medals.

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Alsace, late 1944 'The revenge of 1940'. The French soldier shown in this very symbolic picture is probably a commando, since he is wearing a 1935 helmet under a camouflage net. His rather varied equipment includes a German belt and cartridge pouch. In the background, the shot-up Citroën, if it can be repaired, which seems unlikely, will soon be changing sides again. (USIS)

Notes sur les Planches en Couleur

A1 Le 14 juillet 1940, les différents détachements de la France libre défilent à Londres dans une tenue intégralement française. Ce légionnaire de la 14e DBLE porte l'uniforme perçu pour l'expédition de Norvège, rehaussé de la traditionnelle ceinture de laine bleue roulée autour du ventre et, détail rarement observé, d'une petite barrette tricolore sur la patte d'épaule indiquant son appartenance aux Free French. **A2** Longtemps, les tirailleurs noirs de la France Libre restent entièrement équipés à la française. Le BM 1 représenté ici durant l'expédition du Gabon est le seul bataillon noir à porter un insigne de tissu spécifique, une croix de Lorraine sur un triangle dont la couleur varie selon la compagnie. **A3** Les cadets (élèves officiers) de la France Libre conservent toutes les traditions des chasseurs sur leur uniforme de tenue de sortie britannique. L'aiguillette est celle des cadets britanniques. Sur la poitrine figurent ici l'insigne des troupes terrestres FFL et le « perchoir » à croix de Lorraine des FNFL.

B1 Méhariste des compagnies sahariennes, 1940-43. Rien ne distingue les méharistes de la France Libre. **B2** A Fort-Lamy (Tchad) en avril 1941, le colonel Leclerc porte un casque colonial italien de prise, un paletot réglementaire et un séroual saharien.Sur sa poitrine brille le « perchoir » des FNFL. **B3** Lors des opérations d'El Alamein, la tenue des spahis du 1er RMSM est composée d'effets en toile français (stocks du Levant) ou britanniques. Pour les équipages d'automitrailleuses comme l'est notre maréchal des logis-chef, le casque est un Adrian 1915 transformé « motorisé » avec bourrelet frontal.

C1 La tenue de ce SAS du « French Squadron » vu dans le désert en été 1942 est entièrement britannique ; seul l'insigne de poitrine à croix de Lorraine (porté indifféremment à gauche ou à droite selon les hommes) distingue les Français. **C2** Durant toute la campagne de Tunisie, l'armée d'Afrique ne peut compter pratiquement que sur ses seules ressources, d'où la tenue « 39-40 » de notre sergent du 2e RTA. Seules quelques armes nouvelles, dont des PM Thompson M 1928, seront mises en service. **C3** Ce lieutenant du 1er REI de marche présente la silhouette typique de nombreux officiers français sur la grande dorsale tunisienne de novembre 1942 au printemps 1943. L'élégante culotte mastic d'officier de 1939-40 a cédé la place au pantalon golf de troupe.

D1 Les goumiers ont pour vêtement principal la djellabah de confection locale, sous laquelle sont portés des effets d'uniforme de tirailleurs ou spahis. Le casque américain M1917 A1 est porté au combat à partir de l'été 1943. L'écusson, assez rarement porté, comporte le numéro du tabor (bataillon). **D2** Ce maréchal des logis du 5e RCA vu en juillet 1943 lors d'une prise d'armes est encore intégralement habillé à la française, avec pour élément nouveau l'insigne de cavalerie modèle 1941 surmonté du galon de grade. **D3** Les auxiliaires féminines de l'armée de terre reçoivent la tenue de leurs homologues américaines (WAC), portée avec insignes français autant que possible, comme cette conductrice-ambulancière du 8e bataillon médical vue en Italie fin 1943.

E1 A la fin de la guerre, tous les commandos français portent le béret bleu foncé/noir, orné, au Bataillon de Choc, d'un insigne métallique. Sur la manche figurent un titre d'épaule et une étoile noire à croix de Lorraine (l'étoile de manche étant en France le symbole des éclaireurs et les groupes francs). L'habillement et l'équipement sont américains, à l'exception du chèche. **E2** La veille du Jour-J, 32 éclaireurs du 2e RCP ont l'insigne honneur d'être les premiers soldats alliés à toucher le sol de France, dans la nuit du 5 au 6 juin. Les paras français des 2e et 3e RCP portent la tenue britannique intégrale, avec pour seule différence les insignes spécifiques. **E3** Ce fusilier-marin commando est représenté lors des opérations de novembre 1944 sur l'île de Walcheren, alors que l'unité a perçu des Denison smocks de parachutistes et des gilets de cuir.

F1 Les chasseurs du 7e RCA sont habillés et équipés à l'américaine mais, recrutés en totalité à partir des Chantiers de la jeunesse d'Afrique du Nord, ils conservent plusieurs éléments signalant cette origine : petit béret vert forestier, cravate vert forestier et blouson de cuir. Sur le béret est fixé l'insigne en laiton du CEF. **F2** Les troupes françaises qui débarquent en Provence en août 1944 sont munis du brassard d'identification imperméabilisé avec drapeau français (même modèle que ceux, bien connus, avec drapeau américain). **F3** Voici la combinaison réglementaire complète des insignes en été 1944 : cocarde sur le bonnet de police kaki US (insigne en fait rarement porté), blason 'France' (plus ou moins courant) et écusson du régiment (fréquemment porté; ici, 68e RAA). **F4** Issu des premiers parachutistes formés dès 1937, le 1er RCP est rééquipé à l'américaine. Sur le casque, chevron de chasseur de 1re classe au-dessous de l'insigne frontal.

G1 Les cavaliers du 1er régiment de France ont la tenue modèle 1941, l'équipement modèle 1935 et le MAS 36 ; ils ne se distinguent des fantassins que par la culotte d'homme monté, les hautes jambières et les éperons. Fin août 1944, après de sérieux combats contre les Allemands, les cavaliers du 1er RDF abandonneront l'écusson du « régiment du traitre Pétain » pour prendre celui du 8e cuirassiers. **G2** Aucune modification n'intervient dans la tenue des gendarmes départementaux entre 1940 et 1944. En zone occupée, ils n'ont pas droit au mousqueton, mais seulement au PA. Le brassard tricolore à croix de Lorraine indique que notre gendarme s'est placé sous l'autorité du commandement local de la résistance. **G3** Les commandos du corps franc Pommiès-49e RI portent le casque motorisé modèle 1935, sauf quelques uns qui ont perçu le rarissime casque modèle 1941. Notre homme porte aussi le paletot vert forestier des Chantiers avec l'insigne du CFP.

H1 Les troupes montant la garde autour des poches de l'Atlantique sont les plus mal loties de toute l'armée française renaissante. Habillées, équipées et armées de bric et de broc, elles sont parfois même en sabots. Le fusil est un Mauser 98k de prise. **H2** Formé de cadres et de jeunes du mouvement Jeunesse et montagne, le Maquis d'Auvergne en porte l'uniforme en drap « bleu Louise » avec béret alpin, blouson croisé avec insigne JM et pantalon golf. Seul le brassard FFI et l'armement sont venus s'y ajouter. **H3** Autriche, été 1945. Coiffé du seyant bonnet de police aux couleurs de tradition, notre caporal d'infanterie en tenue de sortie vient de percevoir la nouvelle tenue en drap modèle 1944, copie du battledress canadien avec boutonnnage sous patte. Elle s'en distingue toutefois par le col ouvert transformable.

Farbtafeln

A1 Am 14. Juli 1940 defilieren die verschiedenen Abteilungen des freien Frankreichs in London in einer vollständig französischen Uniform. Dieser Legionär der 14. Panzerdivision trägt die Uniform des Norwegenfeldzugs mit dem traditionellen Leibgurt aus gerollter blauer Wolle und - ein selten gesehenes Detail - einem kleinen dreifarbige Streifen auf der Schulterklappe, der seine Zugehörigkeit zu den Streitkräften des freien Frankreichs anzeigt. **A2** Die schwarzen Infanteristen der Streitkräfte des freien Frankreichs wurden lange ausschließlich aus französischen Beständen ausgerüstet. Das hier auf dem Gabunfeldzug abgebildete BM 1 ist das einzige schwarze Bataillon mit einem besonderen Tuchabzeichen, nämlich einem Lothringer-kreuz auf einem Winkel von je nach Kompanie unterschiedlicher Farbe. **A3** Die britische Ausgangsuniform dieser Kadetten (Offiziersschüler) der Streitkräfte des freien Frankreichs weist alle Merkmale der traditionellen Jägeruniform auf. Das Schulterstück ist das der britischen Kadetten. Auf der Brust sind das Abzeichen der Landstreitkräfte des freien Frankreichs und das Lothringerkreuz der FNFL zu sehen.

B1 Kamelreiter der Sahara-Kompanie, 1940-43. Die Kamelreiter der Streitkräfte des freien Frankreichs sind durch nichts gekennzeichnet . **B2** Fort-Lamy (Tschad) im April 1941, Oberst Leclerc trägt eine erbeutete Mütze der italienischen Kolonialtruppen, einen vorschriftsmässigen Mantel und typisch nordafrikanische Hosen. Auf seiner Brust glänzt das Abzeichen der Streitkräfte des freien Frankreichs. **B3** Während des Feldzugs in El Alamein trugen die Spahis des 1. RMSM Anzüge aus französischer (aus dem Bestand der Levant-Kompanie) oder britischer Leine. Zur Ausrüstung der Maschinengewehrschützen wie des hier abgebildeten Oberfeldwebels gehört eine Adrian-Mütze aus dem Jahr 1915, die für motorisierte Truppen umgeändert wurde und auf der Stirnseite ein Polster aufweist.

C1 Dieses Mitglied der «French Squadron» der SAS in der Wüste im Jahr 1942 trägt eine völlig britische Uniform; nur das Brustabzeichen in der Form eines lothringischen Kreuzes (das entweder rechts oder links getragen wurde) zeichnet ihn als Franzosen aus. **C2** Während des Tunesienfeldzugs muß sich die afrikanische Armee beinahe ausschließlich auf ihre eigene Bestände verlassen, was die Uniform «39-40» unseres Unteroffiziers des 2. RTA erklärt. Es werden nur wenige neue Waffen, so etwa die PM Thompson M 1928, in den Dienst genommen. **C3** Dieser Leutnant des aus Hilfskräften bestehenden 1. REI ist ein typischer Vertreter zahlreicher französischer Offiziere in den Stellungen in Tunesien vom November 1942 bis Frühling 1943. An die Stelle der eleganten hellgrauen Offiziershosen aus dem Jahr 1939-40 sind die Knickerbockerhosen der Truppen getreten.

D1 Das Hauptkleidungsstück der Goumiers ist die einheimische Dschellaba, die über der Uniform der Infanteristen oder Spahis getragen wird. Der amerikanische Helm M1917 A1 wird ab Sommer 1943 im Gefecht getragen. Der selten getragene Kragenspiegel weist die Nummer des Bataillons auf. **D2** Dieser Oberfeldwebel des 5. RCA bei der Parade im Juli 1943 ist nach wie vor ausschließlich französisch gekleidet, neu hinzu kommt das Abzeichen der Kavallerie aus dem Jahr 1941 und darüber der Rangstreifen. **D3** Die Frauenhilfstruppen der Landstreitkräfte erhalten die Uniformen ihrer amerikanischen Kolleginnen (WAC), zu denen wann immer möglich ein französisches Abzeichen getragen wird, wie diese Ambulanzfahrerin des 8. Sanitätsbataillons Ende 1943 in Italien.

E1 Am Ende des Krieges tragen alle französischen Kommandos die dunkelblau-schwarze Mütze, die im Stoßbataillon mit einem Metallabzeichen geschmückt ist. Auf dem Ärmel sind ein Schulterstück und ein schwarzer Stern mit dem Lothringerkreuz zu sehen (in Frankreich ist der Stern auf dem Ärmel das Abzeichen der Späher und Freikorps). Die Uniform und die Ausrüstung sind mit Ausnahme des Halstuches amerikanischer Herkunft. **E2** In der Nacht vom 5. auf den 6. Juni, am Vorabend der Landung der Alliierten, kommt 32 Spähern des 2. RCP die besondere Ehre zu, als erste französische Truppen französischen Boden zu betreten. Die französischen Fallschirmjäger des 2. und 3. RCP tragen britische Uniformen mit den spezifischen Abzeichen als einzigem Unterschied. **E3** Dieses Marineinfanteriekommando nimmt 1944, als die Einheit die Denison-Smocks der Fallschirmjäger und Lederwesten erhielt, an den Gefechten auf der Insel Walcheren teil.

D1 Die vollständig amerikanisch gekleideten und ausgerüsteten Jäger der 7. RAC wurden gänzlich aus den Reihen der Chantiers der nordafrikanischen Jugend rekrutiert, und verschiedene Merkmale erinnern an ihre Herkunft: kleine jägergrüne Mütze, jägergrüne Krawatte und Lederjacke. Auf der Mütze ist das Messingabzeichen des CEF zu sehen. **F2** Die im August 1944 in der Provence an Land gehenden französischen Truppen tragen zur Identifikation wasserundurchlässige Armbinden mit der französischen Flagge (der gleichen Art wie die bekannten Armbinden mit der amerikanischen Flagge). **F3** Vollständige Zusammenstellung der vorschriftsmäßigen Abzeichen vom Sommer 1944: Kockarde auf der kakifarbenen US-Polizeimütze (ein in der Tat selten getragenes Abzeichen), 'France'-Abzeichen (mehr oder weniger verbreitet) und Kragen-spiegel des Regimentes (häufig getragen; hier ist es der des 68. RAA). **F4** Das 1. RCP wurde ab 1937 aus den ersten Fallschirmjägern zusammengestellt und aus amerikanischen Beständen ausgestattet. Auf dem Helm ist unter dem Stirnabzeichen ein Winkel der 1. Klasse angebracht.

G1 Die Kavalleristen des 1. Régiment de France tragen die Dienstuniform aus dem Jahr 1941, die Dienstausrüstung aus dem Jahr 1935 und das MAS 36; sie unterscheiden sich von den Infanteriesoldaten nur durch die Hosen, die Beinkleider und die Sporen. Ende August 1944 geben die Kavalleristen des 1. RDF nach schweren Gefechten mit den Deutschen den Kragenspiegel des «Verräters Pétain» auf und übernehmen jenen des 8. Kürassierregiments. **G2** An der Uniform der Departementspolizisten ändert sich von 1940 bis 1944 nichts. In der besetzten Zone ist ihnen das Tragen eines Maschinengewehrs untersagt, und sie tragen nur eine Selbstladepistole. Die dreifarbige Armbinde mit dem Lothringerkreuz ist ein Zeichen dafür, daß sich dieser Polizist unter das Kommando der lokalen Widerstandsbewegung gestellt hat. **G3** Die Mehrzahl der Kommandos des 49. Freikorps-Pommiés tragen den Helm der motorisierten Verbände aus dem Jahr 1935, einige tragen jedoch den äußerst seltenen Helm aus dem Jahr 1941. Unser Mann trägt auch den jägergrünen Mantel der Chantiers mit dem Abzeichen des CFP.

H1 Die Wachttruppen an der Atlantikküste sind die am schlechtesten ausgerüsteten Truppen der neue entstehenden französischen Armee. Sie sind kunterbunt gekleidet, ausgerüstet und bewaffnet und tragen manchmal sogar Holzschuhe. Das Gewehr ist ein erbeuteter Mauser 98k. **H2** Das Maquis d'Auvergne, das aus den Jugendverbänden Jeunesse et Montage entstand, trägt die blaue ("bleu Louise") Stoffuniform mit der alpinen Mütze, einem zweireihigen Kittel mit dem Abzeichen der JM sowie Knickerbockerhosen. Nur die FFI-Armbinde und die Waffen sind neu. **H3** Österreich, Herbst 1945. Dieser Infanterieunteroffizier mit der kecken Polizeimütze in den traditionellen Farben und der neuen vorschriftsmäßige Ausgangsuniform von 1944 hat soeben die neue Stoffuniform aus dem Jahr 1944 erhalten, eine Kopie der kanadischen Gefechtsuniform mit Pattenknöpfen. Sie unterscheidet sich jedoch durch ihren Umlegekragen.

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Avec annotations en francais sur les planches en couleur
Mit Aufzeichnungen auf Deutsch über den Farbtafeln

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